32.26.24

BULLETIN OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

INFORMATION BULLETIN PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

No. 8 (2nd. Year) APRIL 15, 1955

All peace forces for Helsinki

Reports from every part of the world show how warmly the decision to convoke a World Assembly for Peace at Helsinki, May 22-29, has been welcomed and how wide is the basis for its preparation.

Without doubt the campaign against the preparation of atomic war has played and is playing the principal part in this. During the collection of signatures, and in the course of thousands of discussions in trade union organisations, political parties, religious circles, social organisations, which are leading to a growing flood of declarations, appeals, delegations to M.Ps., and similar actions, it has become clear that there is a new feeling among the peoples. It is not only that ever wider circles welcome the campaign because they feel a new need to act before it is too late. They are feeling also more and more strongly the need for more effective ways of acting together, the need to break down the barrier between those who work for peace from different points of view.

For this reason national peace movements have been linking their preparations for the World Assembly closely with the campaigns in progress. That is to say they are not only popularising the Assembly in the course of the campaigns; they are also finding ways to link the signature collections and all the other forms of activity with the election of delegates, with discussions of proposals for the agenda, with messages of support for the Assembly and so on.

Moreover since the Appeal for the World Assembly was first launched new possibilities have become clear. The decision to organise atomic war and the rapid steps which have been taken to put this decision into effect — in particular the special emphasis which is now being placed on the hydrogen bomb as the all-powerful 'deterrent' for aggression — has started a deep process of rethinking and has begun to break down the hesitations of many people who up to now have not thought it right to get 'mixed up in politics'. This applies particularly to many of the world's most eminent scientists and doctors, among them, for example, a number of important atomic scientists in the U.S.A., who are warning peoples and governments of the terrible consequences of present policies.

While many members of all churches and religious bodies have long played their part in the struggle for peace, today there are significant new developments. In important circles of the Christian Churches, both Catholic and Protestant, for example, grave disquiet is now showing itself and searching discussion on the moral implications of the decision to use the Hydrogen bomb are going on. Eminent international lawyers, too, are challenging the legality of the use and production of such weapons.

These developments are of great significance in the world struggle against atomic war. It is particularly important that all these trends should find their full expression at Helsinki. The discussions at the World Assembly will help to resolve many of the doubts and difficulties being felt in these wide circles. At the same time it will be possible by joint study to reach a common understanding on positive lines of action for the future.

In many countries account is already being taken of this in preparing for the Assembly. In a number of countries, for example, big national assemblies, prepared by regional and local gatherings, are being held. In others national participation is being jointly prepared by the peace movement and by the representatives of other organisations.

A big factor in helping to ensure that the Assembly is truly representative of all these forces can be the draft agenda issued by the Bureau of the World Council of Peace: atomic weapons and disarmament; military blocs, general security, collaboration between the nations; independence of nations and the maintenance of peace. This agenda presents in three broad groups the main problems facing thinking people today, without prejudging the solutions. In detailed discussions of the many subdivisions of these problems all, on the basis of their own point of view and of their special interests, will be able to make a valuable and constructive contribution.

Already it is possible to say that the World Assembly will be exceptionally important and representative. Between now and May 22 it is the job of the Peace Movement to ensure the participation from every country of every force which is engaged, in such richness and variety, in the struggle for Peace.

IN THIS ISSUE

*

Page

- From all sides, new voices speak out 2
- Two major countries start the collection of signatures against atomic weapons 3
- News from Finland, Italy and Bulgaria 4
- The Turkey-Iraq Pact confronts the peoples of the Middle East with the atomic danger 5
- Questions and answers ..... 6 & 7
- Asian peoples determined to consolidate friendship and extend peace zone: Meeting in Tokyo. — The campaign in India — The programme of the Viet Nam Movement. The first signatures in Chile 8
- Women, young people and peasants in Germany continue the struggle against the London and Paris Agreements. Appeal for a European Workers' Conference. 9
- Statement by the great actress Rosaura Revueltas. Chaplin Peace Fund Competitions in Austria. The anniversaries of Schiller and Andersen 10
- Proposal by the American painter, Anton Refregier 11
- London sees panels condemning atomic war. Paul Robeson invited to Great Britain. The signature campaign in Argentine 12

From All Sides New Voices Speak Out...

• A Group of Teachers and Doctors in Buenos Aires

An important group of Buenos Aires doctors have declared their support for the banning of thermonuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

They include the following:

Dr. Gregorio Araoz Alfaro, Former President of the Academy of Medicine, founder and former director of the Institute of Semiology; Dr. Alejandro Ceballos, former professor at the Surgical Clinic and former adviser to the Medical Science Faculty; Dr. Nicolas Romano, academician and former professor at the Medical Clinic; Dr. Osvaldo Loudet, President of the Society of Criminology and Legal Medicine; Dr. Alfredo Ferrer Zanchi, M.P.; Dr. Manuel Oribe, President of the Psychiatric, Neurological and Neuropsychiatric Society; Dr. Moses Polak, Head of the Anti-Cancer Centre of Avellaneda; Dr. Juan Carlos Christensen, head of the neuro-surgical department at the French hospital; Dr. Oscar Alende, M.P.; Dr. Pedro Diaz Colodrero, Head of the Phrenopathology Institute; Dr. Lidio Mosca, member of the International Radiology Society; and Dr. Hector Villar, Head of the Psychiatric Department of the French Hospital.

These eminent medical figures have approved the statement sent to UNO by the Rosario doctors. *(See previous numbers of the Bulletin.)*

This statement says in part:

'We are living at an exceptional time. As doctors, trained in the spirit of humanism, we are obliged to recognise our moral responsibility.

'Expressing the agony of mind which is felt by all the peoples and aware of the great peril facing mankind, we have decided to send this message to UNO to ask them to ban absolutely every kind of atomic, hydrogen and radioactive weapon and all other weapons of mass destruction, and we invite all individuals and organisations to do likewise.'

• The Christian Democrat Mayor of Florence Calls a Conference of Mayors of Capital Cities

Mr. La Pira, the Christian Democrat Mayor of Florence and former Italian government minister, has recently decided to call a conference of the Mayors of all the European capitals in the near future in order to discuss the problems of disarmament and peace. This news was made public at a meeting of the Municipal Council. The representatives of the Council's different political groups immediately gave it their support and the announcement aroused very considerable interest.

• French Socialist Party Opposes the Manufacture of A and H bombs

In a communique, the Parliamentary group and the Executive Committee of the French Socialist Party (S.F.I.O.) state that they 'will oppose any efforts to impose the manufacture of atomic or thermonuclear bombs in France. They ask the French government, without waiting for the necessary agreements on disarmament, to take the diplomatic steps for reaching an international agreement for the immediate banning of all thermonuclear explosions.'

• Ministers of the Australian Methodist Church

As we have already announced, 119 of the ministers present at the Conference of Methodist Churches which was held in Melbourne at the beginning of March signed the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war. Resolutions were moreover adopted by the Conference calling for a lessening of international tension:

'We express our satisfaction at the end of the fighting in Indo-China but realise that the danger of conflict in Asia is still acute... We earnestly request our government to explore every possible means of peaceful co-existence ... We believe that S.E.A.T.O. is likely to increase rather than decrease tension in Asia ...'

Considering the difficulties which several Australian defenders of peace have had in obtaining passports, the Conference, in another resolution, drew the attention of the Federal Government to 'Article I, Section 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, viz., "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country". We urge upon the government the honouring of this clause.'

The Conference also went on record against the publication in the press of advertisements calling for war and propagating racial prejudice detrimental to the consolidation of world peace.

The President of the Swedish Trade Unions

Mr. Axel Strand, President of the Swedish T.U.C. and Social Democratic Vice-Chairman of Parliament, has stated that he endorses the demand to destroy all stocks of atomic weapons and stop their manufacture.

'From a human point of view, it would be a good thing to achieve this. When one knows the horrible consequences which can result from the use of these weapons, one can reach no other conclusion.'

The Swedish T.U.C. includes almost all Sweden's workers.

Cardinal Gelier, Archbishop of Lyons

Addressing a meeting at Lyons, Cardinal Gerlier, Archbishop of Lyons, evoked the threat represented by the atomic bomb and concluded: 'Let all men, let all Christians, agree to oppose such a thing and work to create that unity of public opinion throughout the world which alone can bring about the unity of all the leaders of the peoples against war and against the use of a means of destruction which would dishonour mankind.'

General Jose Rafael Gabaldon

well-known Venezulan Roman Catholic and President of the National Committee for Peace and Democracy.

In an article published by a Venezuelan newspaper, General Jose Rafael Gabaldon issued a warning against the serious dangers implied in the statements of the American Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, concerning the use of the hydrogen bomb against China. This would provoke an unparalleled tragedy over Formosa, he said, and went on to point out the responsibility of the peoples of Latin America:

'As an ardent defender of Latin America, it is my opinion that we should not sign solidarity pacts with the United States and that we must proclaim our America a "peace zone" so as to free ourselves from those who would drag us into shady wars, such as that in Korea, and to escape from their interference and domination. What happened in Guatamala is the most recent example of this interference. What can we have in common with those who wish us no good and in fact do us all the harm they can? ...

'I do not want us to be enemies of the United States; what I want is that we should not support them in undertakings which risk involving the world in total war ...'

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ATOMIC WAR

Throughout the world young people are playing their part in the campaign against atomic war, linking this work to the preparations for the Fifth World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship which will be held in Warsaw, July 31—August 15.

In order to stimulate the signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal, the young people of Vienna have challenged the young people of Stockholm; likewise the whole of Austria is competing with the whole of Sweden.

Two young Japanese plan to tour Europe to help the campaign; one is from Hiroshima and the other from Nagasaki.

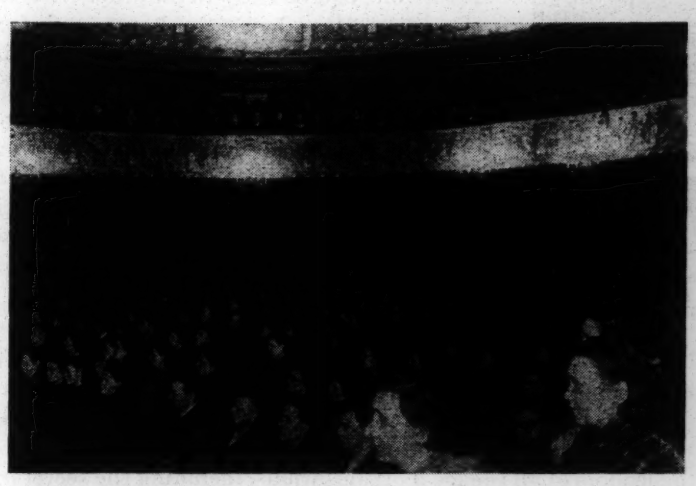
Young Austrians have already collected 15,800 signatures in factories, training centres, schools, etc. In a village of 251 inhabitants, two youngsters collected 248 signatures.

In Japan young people are using films, poems and songs to help the campaign.

The activities in connection with World Youth Week (March 21—28) gave a new stimulus to the struggle for peace.

In all their activities, the young people are using the most varied methods: collecting signatures in the streets, at stadiums, etc.; organising excursions, processions of cyclists, etc.

With the First Days of April
the Signature Campaign Begins in Two Major Countries



General view of the hall during the session of the Latvian Peace Committee in Riga.

SOVIET UNION

The collection of signatures to the Vienna Appeal against the preparations for atomic war began throughout the Soviet Union on April 1st. The campaign is being organised in the following way:

Committees for the collection of signatures have been set up in every town and district of the country. On the morning of the 1st peace workers began to collect signatures door-to-door, and meetings of various kinds are being or will be held in the factories and the collective and state farms.

Signatures will be collected in trains, in the far away villages, in the towns which have recently sprung up on the newly ploughed lands, in the sanatoria, in the rest homes and hospitals, in the schools and universities, in the Soviet embassies abroad — in fact everywhere where there are Soviet people.

All Soviet citizens over the age of sixteen can sign the Appeal.

Meetings at which the participants signed the Appeal have been held in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Vladivostock, and in Siberia, Central Asia and elsewhere.

The launching of the campaign was preceded by a great deal of publicity and organisational work, and in order to prepare it carefully extended meetings of regional and local peace committees were held in many parts of the country at the end of March.

The Ukrainian Peace Committee met in Kiev and its President, Mr. Semenenko, vice-president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, gave a report on the campaign. A delegation was elected to represent the Ukraine at the Fifth Soviet Peace Conference.

A plenary session of the Stalingrad Regional Committee was held in that city. The participants unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the people of the region to make a still greater effort on behalf of peace.

A delegation to the Fifth Soviet Peace Conference was elected.

An extended session of the Latvian Peace Committee heard a report by Professor Peive, President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. A unanimously adopted resolution expressed the Committee's conviction that every Latvian worker will sign the Vienna Appeal.

Solemn sessions of the Peace Committees were also held in the Republics of Byelorussia, Kirghizia, Tadjikistan and Lithuania.

FRANCE

'The National Assembly for Peace solemnly invites all Frenchmen to sign the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war issued by the World Council of Peace, and to get others to sign it.

'Let the greatest signature campaign that our country has ever known begin today throughout France.

'By giving a striking demonstration of France's will for peace, we shall save our country from war, help it to regain its independence and help to make negotiation and disarmament possible.'

These are the concluding words of an important appeal to the French people made by the National Assembly for Peace in Drancy on April 3rd.

So the campaign for the Vienna Appeal will begin immediately.

The decisions of the Assembly are contained in three texts which express the French people's determination to pursue their action against German rearmament until victory while beginning the collection of signatures against the preparations for atomic war.

The Assembly also adopted another document on organisational questions and elected a new National Peace Council whose 520 members widely represent the various tendencies and organisations working for peace.

Progress in Uniting those who Work for Peace

In order to realise the progress that has been made in uniting all who work for peace in France one need only look at the list of speakers in the public sessions or the commissions during these two days.

Here are a few names by way of example. The writer Vercors presided the opening session and paid warm homage to the memory of Yves Farge and Professor Leon Wagner of the Sorbonne presented the introductory report. Then there were Mr. Philippon, deputy mayor of Perigueux; Mr. Bellugue, Socialist mayor of a locality in the Drome Department; Mr. Deville, vice-president of the Meurthe-et-Moselle district committee of the Radical Socialist Party; Mr. Laurent Casanova, member of the Presiding Committee of the French Peace Movement; Mr. Sutty, former Socialist county councillor for the Rhone Department; Mr. Jacques Chatagner, an active Catholic, formerly director of the review *La Quinzaine;* Mr. Roger Pigault, the film actor, representing the Actor's Committee for Peace; Mrs. Marcelle Auclair representing the National Committee of Writers; Mr. Joussa of the Jewish Action Committee against German rearmament; Mrs. Georges Huisman, who spoke on behalf of the World Congres of Mothers; Mr. Cerf-Ferriere, former chairman of the Resistance group in the Consultative Assembly (provisional parliament in France immediately after the liberation Ed.); and Mr. Dupleix, member of the Secretariat of the Preparatory Committee for the European Workers' Conference in Leipzig.

Messages from All over the World

Delegates from Great Britain, the German Federal Republic, Italy, Algeria and Switzerland brought greetings to the Assembly and Professor Nobuo Kusano of Japan, a specialist in atomic disease, also spoke.

Messages were received from Canada, Poland, the Soviet Union and other countries.

Speech by Professor Joliot-Curie

On the Sunday afternoon, Professor Joliot-Curie, President of the World Council of Peace, spoke on the great campaign for the banning of atomic weapons.

Mr. Emmanuel d'Astier de la Vigerie, one of the presidents of the Movement, closed the Assembly by presenting the final Appeal which gives the reasons why a big French delegation should go to the World Assembly in Helsinki.

Finland:

The Campaign Goes on while the World Assembly is Being Prepared

Next month Helsinki will be the rendezvous of the representatives of all forces for peace in the world . . . The Finnish Peace Movement considers that this honour confers great obligations on its members and they propose to present an imposing list of activities at the World Assembly which will take place in their capital.

Considerable Results already Achieved

Before the collection of signatures started, the aims of the campaign were popularised in posters and leaflets with the result that it received a favourable welcome.

Many collectors have already collected hundreds of signatures and in a number of factories the personnel have signed 100 per cent. The young people in particular have won excellent results by linking their efforts with the preparations for the World Festival of Youth and Students which will be held in Warsaw.

The women's organisations have already achieved appreciable results. An example was set to all Finnish women by the Executive Committee of the Finnish section of the Women's International Democratic Federation, with the President, General Secretary and several members of parliament at their head. They were seen discussing and getting signatures in the street, in restaurants, bus and railway stations on International Women's Day.

Building Workers

The Vienna Appeal has been endorsed at three hundred meetings of building workers and Mr. Aarne Saarinen, president of the Building Workers' Union, has stated in a declaration the reasons for his union's support of the Appeal:

'Finnish workers,' said Mr. Saarinen, 'have the same reasons as the workers of other countries for demanding the banning of atomic weapons.

'It is really terrible to think that at the very moment when the International Labour Office announces that approximately two thirds of mankind are undernourished and that there are at least 180 million too few houses in the world, the N.A.T.O. Secretariat proclaims that the 13 member countries of this organisations spent more than 65 thousand million dollars on war preparations in 1953. With that we could construct seven-and-a-half million very comfortable flats of 50 square metres floor area.

'This situation cannot and must not continue any longer. We must change this whole policy. And that is only possible with the help of the mass of the people who will throw their strength into the active struggle for the peaceful use of atomic energy and for the reduction of armaments.'

Organisational Steps

The Annual Conference of the Movement, which was held on February 27, dealt mainly with the organisational problems involved in the campaign. It recommended various steps to extend the signature collection to the furthest corners of the country.

The work of collecting signatures is accompanied by various forms of publicity, and the World Assembly is being popularised through meetings at which the activities of the Movement as a whole are being advanced.

Bulgaria:

Many Organisations Take Part in the Collection of Signatures

The Bulgarian Peace Committee and the National Council of the Fatherland Front solemnly inaugurated the campaign at a great Assembly in Sofia on February 21.

The assembly was opened by a speech from Professor Nadjakov, Academician, president of the National Peace Committee. The speakers included representatives of the Central Council of Trade Unions, the Orthodox Church, the Union of Youth, the Bulgarian Women's Committee, the Bulgarian Writers' Union, the Academy of Sciences and many other organisations. They all gave warm support to the Appeal of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace.

At the end of the meeting the participants enthusiastically signed the Appeal.

In the following days the mass organisations asked their members to support the Appeal.

At a special meeting, the Professors and students of the Sofia Law Faculty adopted an appeal to all professors, students and legal workers to support the Appeal.

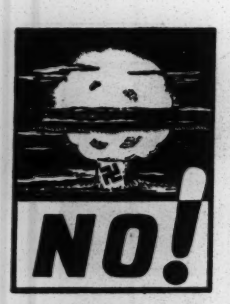
Eminent personalities of the Orthodox Church made statements in the press calling on all members of the Church to join in the campaign, while the Grand Mufti and the Chief Rabbi also endorsed the decisions of the World Council and sent a message to their respective followers.

The campaign is in full swing in all the towns and in a great number of villages, and also in the factories of national importance and the great state enterprises and establishments.

Meetings and conferences are held after which special committees collect signatures in the factories and localities.

Italy:

Unity Forged by Friends of Peace



A leaflet published by the Peace Committee of Forli in Central Italy

From one end of Italy to the other collectors are going from house to house and from bench to bench in the factories, getting their neighbours and workmates to sign the Vienna Appeal.

Their strenuous and methodical work, aided by the many publicity measures described in the last issue of the Bulletin, is bearing fruit. The people of Italy are enthusiastically expressing their determination to see atomic weapons banned by signing the Appeal.

In many cases a wide unity of forces for peace is being achieved on the basis of agreement on the aims of the Vienna Appeal. For example, at Nonantola in Emilia a manifesto against atomic war and German rearmament has been signed by the leaders of all the local organisations, including the secretaries of the local branches of the Christian Democratic and Social Democratic parties. At Savignano in the same province the secretary of the local branch of the Christian Democratic Party is taking part in the collecting of signatures. Priests have signed the Appeal at Villanova, San Pancrazio, Ruttinara, San Damaso and Gambola.

This breadth of support is being realised in various ways. At Pieve de Sinalunga in the province of Siena all the workers of the Nello Quinti factory have signed including the owner, while at Rigaiolo, Poggialli and Crocifisso the whole population has endorsed and signed the Vienna Appeal.

Growing numbers of municipal and provincial councils are giving active support to this campaign.

At a meeting of the town council of Viareggio, a little town on the Tyrrhenian Sea, 16 Christian Democratic councillors, eight of the Left wing minority and two Republicans presented a joint motion against the atomic weapon. It was unanimously adopted and distributed to the people, who were asked to take part in the campaign for the destruction and banning of atomic weapons.

In the province of Turin the Grugliasso town council took a similar step. It first of all passed a resolution demanding the outlawing of atomic and thermonuclear weapons and an agreement between the great powers. A letter was then sent to all the inhabitants in which the council recalls that the Nazis massacred 66 people in the region and states:

'We are in full agreement with the Appeal issued by the Bureau of the World Council of Peace, the most representative body of the forces for peace. We hope that the wrath of the people against those who want to hurl the world into the most terrible catastrophe will be reflected in millions and millions of signatures.'

These are only a few of the hundreds of examples offered by a campaign in which the great majority of the Italian people are endorsing the Appeal launched in Vienna.

Turkey-Iraq Pact Confronts Peoples of Middle East with Atomic Danger

From Teheran to Cairo there are mounting waves of protest against the ratification or implementation of the Turkey-Iraq military pact which threatens the security of the peoples of the Near and Middle East and constitutes a danger to world peace.

As a result of popular opposition, some governments have been led to state official opposition to this pact, following which foreign pressure on them has increased considerably. Diplomatic notes have been sent with the idea of intimidating them; and at the same time the Turkish press has started to make territorial demands at Syria's expense, particularly the Mossoul oil-fields, and against other Arab countries.

The atmosphere of tension, resulting from the intervention of certain governments with the aim of involving the countries of this region in military coalitions, disturbs the peoples still more when one of the initiators of such a pact in the Near and Middle East, Turkey, is already committed to N.A.T.O. and its army has long been equipped with atomic weapons.

In struggling against the Turkey-Iraq Pact, the peoples of the Near and Middle East are thus acting not only against war but also against war in its most monstrous form — atomic war. This is expressed in the warm welcome these peoples are giving to the campaign against the preparations for atomic war, launched by the World Council of Peace.

Common Action Against A Common Danger

At a time when the Syrian people see themselves especially threatened by the Turkey-Iraq Pact, a great rally at Damascus brought together political figures from several Middle Eastern countries to study the means of dealing with this pact, to consolidate the bonds of solidarity between the peoples of this region and to safeguard peace.

Responding to the Appeal for a Middle East Conference, members of parliament, leaders of political parties and mass organisations, religious leaders and journalists, lawyers, doctors and others met in the Syrian capital on April 1. This Appeal, which was distributed to individuals and newspapers in Syria, the Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan, states in particular:

'The gravity of the international situation faces the countries of this region with common dangers and difficulties, the most dangerous aspect of which are the efforts to impose pacts and charters on them.'

'In this situation, we believe that it is necessary for the statesmen, scientists and men of culture of all these countries to meet to discuss the common interests of their peoples, exchange views on this subject and strengthen the links between them.'

Among the signatories of this Appeal are the following:

Syria: Dr. Maaruf Dawalibi, M.P., former chairman of the House and former Prime Minister; Dr. Mustafa Libai, Leader of the Moslem Brotherhood and Dean of the Faculty of Religious Sciences; Ali Buzu, M.P., former minister.

Lebanon: Mr. Kamal Jumblat, President of the Progressive Socialist Party; Mr. Harsan Buhssuli, Vice-President of the National Association (a political party); Mr. Adnan Hakim, President of the Moslem Scouts (a political organisation); Mr. Antoine Tabet, member of the World Council of Peace.

Jordan: Mr. Abdel Kader Saleh, M.P., Mr. Mohmud Rashed Nazem, M.P.; Mr. Amar Katib, barrister, former minister, member of the Executive Committee of the National Democratic Party and others.

In the Syrian University and Parliament

Forty members of Parliament, including Mr. Rushdi Kikhia, President of the People's Party, former Chairman of the Lower House and Chairman of the Constituent Assembly; Mr. Rafik Bashur, Vice-Chairman of the Lower House; the Moslem Parliamentary group, members of the Socialist Party, the Arab Renaissance Party, etc., have signed the Vienna Appeal.

The text of the Appeal is circulating in the homes, localities, factories and schools in every town and village. 80% of the lecturers and students of the Damascus Polytechnic have signed, while fifteen newspaper directors and many barristers and doctors have joined in the campaign.

On all sides the signing of the Appeal is accompanied by statements against the Turkey-Iraq Pact.

A Statement by the Djamistel Vlama (Association of Priests)

Signed by its President, Sheikh Abukheir Al Midani, the Association of Priests has published a statement condemning atomic weapons and the Turkey-Iraq Pact. This body is the most important religious organisation in Syria.

300 Trade Unions Announce their Support

The Syrian Workers' Congress, representing 300 trade unions, met on March 25 in the great amphitheatre of Damascus University. They decided unanimously to continue ever more energetically the struggle for peace and against military pacts such as the Turkey-Iraq Pact. The Congress made a unanimous demand for the banning of atomic weapons and the hydrogen bomb.

The High Modjtahed of the Lebanon

The signature campaign is developing in the Lebanon amongst all sections of the people. Two M.P.s, 65 barristers and 300 business people have signed the Appeal. The High Modjtahed (religious leader) of the Lebanon, Hossein Shareffeddin, has given his support to the campaign against the preparations for atomic war and has signed the Vienna Appeal.

A Statement By the Egyptian Peace Comittee

The attempts to involve the Arab countries as well as the other countries of the Near and Middle East in military alliances are meeting with strong popular opposition in Egypt. On several occasions the government has declared its hostility to such alliances which divide the nations and aggravate tension in the world.

In response to the demand of the Egyptian people, the Peace Committee made an important statement at its recent meeting, as follows:

'The National Committee welcomes the attitude of the peoples of the Near and Middle East to the Turkey-Iraq Pact. The Committee is sure that the vigilance of the peoples is a guarantee that they will fight against any attempt to create pacts, blocs and military bases in the countries of this region.'

The Committee especially stresses the joint Nehru-Abdel Nasser statement which says in particular: 'It is a great duty to exert every effort to ban war and create an atmosphere of world peace. International differences must be settled by negotiation. Military blocs aggravate international tension. The armaments race is no guarantee of peace for any country. Atomic energy must be used for peace and above all for the advancement of the underdeveloped areas.'

While giving its support to this joint statement, the Committee asks the Egyptian Government to recognise the People's Republic of China and to oppose intervention by foreign forces in her territorial waters. The Committee condemns the preparations for atomic war and calls for the destruction of existing stocks of atomic weapons.

In Jordan 74 well-known People launch the Appeal

A statement by 74 M.P.s, religious leaders, barristers, doctors and others has been published calling on the people of Jordan to sign the Vienna Appeal against the preparations for atomic war.

The campaign is making good headway.

ALL POLITICAL TRENDS IN LEBANON CONDEMN FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

A National Congress against the Turkey-Iraq Pact was held in Beirut on March 10 with the participation of all the political and social organisations of the Lebanon.

The following organisations were represented: the Progressive Socialist Party, the Arab Nationalists, the Destour (Constitutional) Party, the Moslem Scouts, the Communist Party, the National Group Party, the Arab Renaissance Party, the National Peace Committee, the Society of Lebanese Industrialists, the Lebanese Women's League, the trade unions and the students.

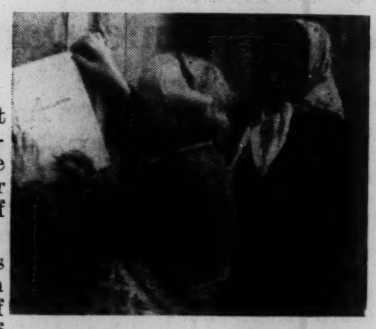
In addition, others of the 150 delegates present were individuals without party affiliations.

The theme of the meeting was one of the most important problems at present facing the peoples of the Near and Middle East — the Turkey-Iraq Pact.

Among the important decisions unanimously adopted by the Congress were the following:

- To support the Charter of the First Lebanese National Congress (1943), dealing with the Lebanon's task in the struggle to safeguard the independence and solidarity of the Arab countries.
- To ask the Lebanese government to state frankly that it will not join in the Turkey-Iraq Pact or any other foreign military pact, this in order to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the Lebanon and to save it from further foreign occupation.

A Noble Task



Every day and in every part of the world, hundreds of thousands of men and women are showing by their acts their ardent support of the cause of peace.

In Tokio and Paris, in Buenos Aires and Sydney, in Cape Town and Peking, in the ricefields of Viet-Nam and the forests of Canada, in the villages of Scandinavia and the countryside of Latin America, from door to door, on the street corners, men and women of all conditions and opinions are collecting signatures for the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war launched by the World Council of Peace.

In certain parts of the world the preparations for atomic war are being accompanied by systematic efforts to sow confusion and disseminate falsehoods or to create an atmosphere of suspicion and fatalism favourable to this end. The signature collector knows that, as a result, he has a preliminary task to do before he can collect an appreciable number of signatures — namely to explain the situation, showing clearly and simply the seriousness of the threat which faces mankind and how it is possible for the peoples to avert this danger if they express unanimously and categorically their indignant opposition to the crime which is being prepared.

But however misleading may be the arguments which are used to try and justify the preparation of a war which would know no frontiers and which would entail infinite destruction, each and every one of them can be refuted. One only has to make an objective analysis of them to see immediately that they are specious, contradictory and feeble. Signature collectors must therefore be ready to answer any questions in such a way as to remove all doubts and expose all falsehoods.

Conditions must be created that will enable signature collectors to make direct contact with the whole population of their neighbourhood, their village or their factory. It is essential for every single man and woman to hear an explanation of the reasons which prompted the World Council of Peace to launch the Vienna Appeal.

The signature collector knows that his most effective weapon is persuasion. He knows, too, that a first refusal perhaps only means that his explanations have not been clear enough. By persevering in explanation and discussion the truth will win in the end.

The mission of the signature collectors is great and noble in that it gives the peoples an opportunity to express their will to live without the permanent danger of suffering, poverty and death. The questions and answers we give here have been compiled with the aim of making their task easier.

1 Why does the World Council of Peace state: 'Today, certain governments are preparing to let loose atomic war?'

On December 17 and 18, 1954, the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation met in Paris and approved a report presented by its military staff. This report plans the use of atomic weapons in the event of war. By adopting it, the N.A.T.O. Council authorised the general staffs to take all the necessary military measures — e.g. equipment of armies, training, etc. — to prepare for atomic war.

The N.A.T.O. Council is composed of members of the governments of the following countries: the United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Portugal, Greece and Turkey. No minister can take such an important decision without his government's approval. This means that these governments have officially decided to prepare for atomic war.

These preparations, accompanied by open threats to use force, are leading to an atomic war.

Questions a

2 What would an atomic war mean?

Up till now there has been no war waged with atomic weapons on both sides. It is therefore difficult to foresee the full effects of an atomic conflict.

However, in August 1945 two atomic bombs were dropped, on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since that time, new atomic weapons have been developed. Japanese fishermen ninety miles away from the Bikini test explosion on March 1st, 1954, were gravely injured by the radioactive effects of the H bomb. One has since died.

During the Second World War Great Britain was the target for hundreds of air raids; the hundreds of thousands of bombs dropped day and night throughout these years caused enormous damage and killed 70,000 people.

One single atomic bomb on Hiroshima practically wiped out the city and annihilated 200,000 human beings at one blow. Today, responsible scientists tell us, the H bomb can cause destruction 1,000 to 2,000 times greater that that of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It can destroy everything without exception in a circle twelve to twenty miles across, and cause death in a circle 120 miles across.

This means that, in an atomic war, whole peoples could be wiped out indiscriminately, cities levelled to the ground and small countries transformed into radioactive deserts. An atomic war would be a war of extermination.

That is why the decision to prepare for atomic war is extremely grave. It demands immediate action from all peoples.

3 Does the danger of atomic war threaten all countries?

The N.A.T.O. Council's decision to use atomic weapons sets up a general principle. Thus the danger which it gives rise to is general, not confined to any one area.

It hangs over Europe. Any war there would be likely to become a world war; this would be an atomic war. The full force of the danger becomes clear when this N.A.T.O. decision is set alongside the attempts to rearm Germany, that is, to set up a new Wehrmacht in which former Hitler generals would be armed with atomic weapons.

But it goes far, very far, beyond Europe. Some governments in the Atlantic Pact at the same time belong to other military pacts, particularly in the countries of Asia and the Pacific. They maintain armed forces and many military bases there. So the principle of atomic war which they have adopted applies just as much to other parts of the world. The very real threats to use atomic weapons in the Far East confirm this.

The countries of Latin America and Africa possess the raw materials needed for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. There are military bases and dumps on their territories. They could thus be plunged into the midst of an atomic war against their will.

The atomic threat can also be used to bring greater blackmail and pressure to bear on countries struggling to win or defend their independence.

Not even the neutral countries could escape the danger from the widespread destructive effects of atomic weapons.

and Answers

4 Is the World Council's campaign biassed against certain governments?

The World Council works for peace. It does not defend or attack any particular government. Its principle is: non-interference in the internal affairs of countries.

But in working for peace it cannot be indifferent to any acts which raise the fundamental questions of peace or war. Its duty is to support any moves for peace, whatever government proposes them, and to oppose any actions likely to lead to war.

The present campaign has been launched to meet a very real danger which arises from the official plans of certain governments to prepare atomic war. The World Council calls on the peoples to oppose such plans and preparations irrespective of what government or system they may prefer.

Clearly, so long as atomic weapons exist, there will be a danger of atomic war. The World Council therefore says: destroy all stocks of atomic weapons and stop their manufacture. This applies, without distinction, to every country which has got them.

5 Does not both sides having atomic weapons guarantee that they won't be used?

The idea behind this question is this: Atomic attack means atomic retaliation; anyone using atomic weapons therefore invites destruction; no one would be mad enough to do so.

It is true that atomic weapons have enormous destructive power. But this very fact is an encouragement to aggression, not an obstacle. For an aggressor might think that by striking first he could gain a decisive advantage.

Modern history shows that, like Hitler, all adventurers have struck the first blow because they thought themselves the stronger — and also that they got involved in war and catastrophe on a scale that they had never expected. In the atomic age, such calculations can have even more disastrous results.

The idea that a huge stockpile of atomic weapons would guarantee security is also unfounded. Arms races have always led to war; the atomic arms race can only lead to a war of extermination. Once more the peoples would be the victims.

6 Why does the World Council demand particularly the abolition of atomic weapons?

Because atomic weapons are the most dangerous, and threaten the greatest number of people. An aggressor always uses the weapons that can do the most damage. Today this means atomic weapons, so the threat to use them is the main danger.

At the same time as calling for banning atomic weapons, the World Council has always supported disarmament. It has made specific proposals to this effect to the United Nations Organisation. It still maintains these proposals and has called on the people to support them.

Today, the banning of atomic weapons is an essential condition for reducing international tension and would be a decisive step towards general disarmament. It would make possible the full use of the vast power of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and human happiness.

7 Shouldn't banning war be the first step?

The World Council wants the elimination of war as a means of settling international differences. It is profoundly convinced that all differences between nations can be settled by peaceful means: that is what it exists for.

For this reason the World Council has always based its action on practical proposals to prevent recourse to war. The campaigns to end the wars in Korea and Indo-China and for the great powers to settle their differences through peaceful negotiations are examples of this.

So is the present campaign to abolish atomic weapons. It seeks to eliminate the gravest and most immediate danger, that of a war of extermination.

One can have different views on the best way of making war impossible; but no one can be unaware of the need, first of all and before it is too late, to prevent atomic war.

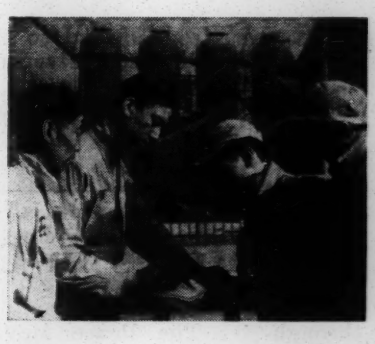
8 Can the use of atomic weapons be prevented?

There are precedents to show that it is possible to ban particular weapons. In the Geneva Convention of 1925, for example, the powers pledged themselves not to use poison gas. This was respected during the Second World War; none of the belligerents dared face the outburst of anger that would certainly have been provoked by the use of gas.

An agreement now to abolish atomic weapons would carry an even more powerful sanction, for it would be backed by the clearly expressed will of the people.

The successes already obtained by the growing pressure of public opinion show that such an agreement is possible.

The strength of opinion expressed through the Stockholm Appeal put a stop to threats to use atomic weapons in Korea.



The signature campaign for a Five Power Peace Pact established the idea of negotiations in the minds of the people: it led to the Berlin and Geneva meetings of the great powers to discuss the peaceful settlement of their differences. Public opinion was respected. The wars in Korea and Indo-China, which might have developed into atomic wars, were stopped.

9 What good is a signature?

A signature is a conscious, individual act. By signing an appeal, a man or woman shows his or her personal support for it. Obviously, one signature by itself will not prevent the outbreak of atomic war. But small streams come together to make great rivers — and hundreds of millions of signatures mount and mount; they become an irresistible flood, with all the significance and power of a universal demand. No authority — not a government or a parliament — can ignore so clear and definite an expression of public opinion.

The World Council's campaign makes it possible to express the general revulsion against atomic weapons with enough force to bring about their abolition.

In this immense task every signature counts.

Asian Peoples Determined to Consolidate Friendship and Extend Peace Zone

More than 300 delegates from 13 Asian countries took part in the proceedings of the Conference of Asian Countries which opened in New Delhi on April 6. This conference was organised by an international committee composed of representatives from India, Japan, the Soviet Union, Ceylon, the People's Republic of China and Syria.

Speaking at a press conference prior to the meeting, Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru, Chairman of the Indian delegation, said that the threat of thermonuclear weapons, colonialism and discrimination against Asian immigrants were among the problems which the Conference was likely to deal with. Later, other points were proposed by various delegations so that finally the agenda for the Conference was as follows:

1) The banning of weapons of mass destruction and the establishment of a control to ensure observation of this measure; the peaceful use of atomic energy.

2) The colonial system and foreign interference in the internal affairs of the countries of Asia.

3) The danger to the countries of Asia involved in the creation of military pacts and bases in Asia.

4) The restoration to the People's Republic of China of its rightful seat in the United Nations Organisation.

5) The peaceful reunification of Korea.

6) The normalisation of diplomatic relations among the countries of Asia.

7) The establishment of trade relations between the states of Asia on a footing of equal rights and mutual advantage, etc.

Our next issue will contain detailed information on this important conference and the decisions reached by it.

Demonstration in Tokyo

Two thousand five hundred people took part in a meeting held in Tokyo on March 17, the anniversary of the day on which the world learned the fate of the 23 Japanese fishermen stricken by radioactive ash from the Bikini hydrogen bomb test. The speakers included Mr. Tetsu Katayama M.P., former Prime Minister and member of the Right Wing Socialist Party; Professor Yoshitaro Hirano, General Secretary of the Japanese Peace Committee; Professor Kaoru Yasui, General Secretary of the National Council against the A and H bombs, and others.

A recording of Professor Joliot-Curie's speech at the Vienna meeting of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace was played at the meeting.

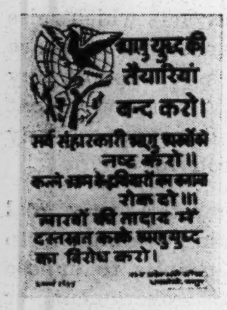
Mr. Shinzo Suzuki greeted the participants on behalf of the victims of the Bikini tests and expressed their gratitude for the help that everyone has given them and their anger against those who are preparing for atomic war.

Mr. Jyukichi Uno, actor, Miss Setsu Asakura, artist, and Mr. Fukuo Kishibe, author of many fairy tales, spoke on the Vienna Appeal. In the course of the meeting it was announced that more than a quarter of the Japanese people had signed against weapons of mass destruction.

Preparations for the International Conference in Hiroshima

The preparatory committee for the International Conference for the banning of the atomic and hydrogen bombs, which is to be held in Tokyo on August 6, held its first meeting in Tokyo on March 2nd. The meeting was attended by representatives of the National Council against the A and H bombs, the trade unions and religious organisations.

It was decided to invite 50 representatives from abroad to the conference and to open it on the day of the day of the tenth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. The Conference has the aim of calling on the peoples of the entire world to put up a yet more resolute struggle against the preparations for atomic war.



Poster put out by Madhya Pradesh Peace Committee, with the slogans of the campaign in Hindi.

The Signature Campaign in India

The signature campaign against atomic weapons is proceeding in the principal towns of India.

Calcutta. — A public meeting was held in Calcutta on March 10 organised by the West Bengal Peace Committee and the participants adopted a resolution expressing deep concern over the recent declarations of certain statesmen on the use of atomic weapons. The resolution also called on the people of West Bengal to sign the Vienna Appeal.

Madras. — The Madras Peace Committee has set itself the aim of collecting half-a-million signatures to the Vienna Appeal. The signature campaign was launched at a public meeting in Madras City on March 5.

The peace council of Ramnad District, Madras State, met on March 6 with a plan for the collection of 200,000 signatures.

Punjab. — In the East Punjab, a public meeting was held in Amritsar under the auspices of the city peace committee. A number of eminent figures spoke, condemning atomic war preparations and supporting the Appeal of the World Council of Peace.

Hyderabad. — The campaign is developing rapidly among all sections of the people and important personalities have already gone on record against atomic war. For example, 67 members of the Legislative Assembly of Hyderabad State have signed the Vienna Appeal.

The First Signatures in Chile

The signature collection began throughout Chile on Sunday, April 3rd and was officially opened at a public meeting in one of the capital's biggest theatres.

The first signatories include well-known representatives of political parties, trade unions and intellectual circles, such as Mr. Rafael Gumucio, M.P., president of the National Falange, a Catholic party; Mr. Eugenio Gonzalez, Senator and leader of the Popular Socialist Party; Mr. Luis Bossay, president of the Radical Party; Mr. Salvador Allende, Vice-President of the Senate; Mr. Baltazar Castro, President of the Chamber of Deputies; Mr. Pablo Neruda, writer; Mr. Benedicto Chuaqui, president of the Writers' Union; Mr. Humberto Martinez, Senator, president of the Democratic Party; Mr. Clotario Blest, president of the Chilean T.U.C.; and Mr. Luis Quinteros, Socialist Senator. These persons set up a Sponsoring Committee for the campaign.

The Peace Movement made careful preparations for the campaign. Following the Vienna meeting of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace, Mr. Volodia Teitelboim, Chile's representative at the meeting, Mr. Allende and Mr. Juan Acevedo M.P. spoke at many meetings and conferences to report back on the decisions of the Bureau. Mr. Allende and Mr. Acevedo visited the regions of Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta in the northern part of the country and spoke to thousands of miners in the course of a fortnight. On his return to Santiago, Mr. Allende undertook another tour of 30 to 40 meetings and conferences.

Moreover, the Movement was concerned to show how the Vienna Appeal meets the immediate preoccupations of the Chilean people and particularly stressed the danger of the thermonuclear tests that the American and British authorities intend to carry out in the Antarctic.

Viet Nam Peace Movement's Plan of Work for 1955

At its recent extended session in Hanoi the Viet Nam Peace Committee adopted a programme of work for 1955.

Among the 14 points of the programme are: to see to it that the Geneva agreements are strictly applied; to promote a vast signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal; to stand with the peoples of Europe in their struggle against German rearmament; to popularise the Five Principles; to oppose military pacts and foreign interference in the internal affairs of nations.

The signature collection for the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war was launched at a mass demonstration in Hanoi on March 10. More than 500 representatives of democratic parties, mass organisations and religious bodies attended the demonstration and were the first to sign the Appeal.

Mr. Nguyen Dang Hu, representing the workers of Hanoi, was the first to sign the Appeal. He stated that the workers had been sorely tried during the war and that they will never allow their peaceful life to be interfered with.

In Germany Women, Young People and Peasants Carry on Struggle against Paris Agreements

The Presiding Committee of the Peace Committee of the German Federal Republic has examined the situation arising from the ratification of the Paris Agreements by the Federal Parliament and adopted a statement from which we take the following extracts:

'Just as E.D.C. was foiled, the agreements on rearming the Federal Republic and incorporating it in a system of military alliances will be thwarted by the peoples' resistance. The struggle against these agreements goes on . . .

'At meetings and demonstrations throughout Germany and by adopting resolutions, our people will express their will to build a united, independent Germany outside any military alliance through free, general, all-German elections. In this way we shall prevent Germans from being armed against other Germans and our country from becoming the battlefield in an atomic war'.

Young People find basis for Common Action

On March 19 and 20 a Congress of German Youth against Remilitarisation, attended by 2,500 young people from all over Germany, including nearly 2,000 from the Federal Republic, was held in Berlin. Leading Christian members of the youth sections of the West German trade unions, members of the 'Falcons' (Socialist youth), members of the West German Union of Youth and the Free German Youth from the German Democratic Republic, well-known sportsmen — all found a common basis of agreement in the rejection of the Paris Agreements for the remilitarisation of West Germany, in spite of their differences on other questions.

In a solemn pledge, the Congress calls on the young people of Germany to act to prevent the agreements from hurling them into war and to work for the unity of Germany.

A small poster put out by the Peace Committee of the German Federal Republic. It opposes the stationing of atomic cannon in West Germany.

A majority of the 800 participants in a Y.M.C.A. meeting at Recklinghausen went on record against military service.

In Hanover, 500 young people took part in a public debate attended by Mr. Kopf, Prime Minister of Lower Saxony. In a very animated discussion the young people demanded joint discussions with the young people of the German Democratic Republic. Mr. Kopf pledged his active support for such discussions.

In Munich on March 13 the Bavarian trade union youth and the Federation of Trade Unions inaugurated a travelling exhibition on the theme: 'Germany's fate is in our hands'. Visitors to the exhibition, which opposes rearmament, are asked to go on record against the Paris Agreements and for the peaceful reunification of the country by signing the German Manifesto.

The delegates to the annual general meeting of the Socialist youth organisation, the 'Falcons', at Hildesheim and the participants in the youth conference of the engineers' trade union in Darmstadt rejected rearmament and military service and announced their determination to work for a peaceful agreement.

Appeal to all Women and Girls

The Presiding Committee of the West German Women's Peace Movement has issued an appeal to all women and girls calling on them to take part in the great common struggle against the London and Paris Agreements and not to relax their efforts until Germany has been united and general disarmament and the banning of atomic weapons have been obtained.

The Peasants

At Wernigerrode in the district of Magdeburg, several hundred peasants from both parts of Germany met to discuss the struggle against remilitarisation.

An appeal was issued to German peasants calling on them to work together with the patriotic forces of Germany against the implementation of the Paris Agreements. 'The policy of remilitarising Germany', says the Appeal, 'has already done great harm to the peasants of West Germany. The ratification of the Paris Agreements threatens even greater harm to German agriculture.'

Charleroi Engineers Send Message to Frankfurt Engineers

Several hundred workers of the Herstal division of A.C.E.C., an important Charleroi steelworks, have written to the engineers of Frankfurt in the German Federal Republic.

In their letter they recall their hostility to German militarism and conclude:

'These workers are at your side in the fight you are conducting and want to give you their support if it is needed. An exchange of views would be desirable with a view to developing the activity in our factory.'

*

At its recent annual congress, the National Federation of Belgian Ex-servicemen, which is a member of the World Federation of Ex-servicemen, adopted a resolution expressing 'ex-servicemen's anxiety at German rearmament and the possible use of weapons of mass destruction'.

*

In a resolution adopted at their recent congress, the Belgian Socialist Young Guard recall 'the positions adopted at the national congress in October: opposition to German rearmament; support for German Socialist youth; hostility to Chiang Kai-shek's regime; and the admission to U.N.O. of the People's Republic of China'.

Appeal for a European Workers' Conference

Following on a series of proposals emanating from factories in the North of France and taken up in other countries, and the meeting of a preparatory committee in Berlin, a European Workers' Conference will be held in Leipzig from April 22—24.

The appeal issued to the workers of Europe on the conference explains its aims in the following words:

'With anxiety you see international tension growing and gravely threatening you and your families. Your many actions in defence of your wages, your work and your rights are an expression of your preoccupation with the maintenance of peace and the improvement of your living standards. War budgets are becoming bigger and bigger. The armaments race is being speeded up . . . The Western powers rely above all on the German militarists who have unleashed war twice already. It is now intended to rearm them, though there is no doubt that war would be waged with weapons of mass destruction. The H bomb would blindly strike the workers down, making no distinctions.'

After bringing out the fact that all European workers have common interests, the appeal shows the great power the workers represent when united. It calls for a conference of workers and trade unionists of all tendencies and from every country in Europe to consolidate this unity — a conference to oppose German militarism, to defend the workers' living standards and rights, for prosperity and peace.

The appeal asks the workers to popularise the appeal and is signed by German, French, Czechoslovak, Polish, Italian, Swedish, Austrian and Danish workers.

Important Demonstration against Hydrogen Bomb in London

On Sunday, March 20, 5,000 people answered the call of the British Peace Committee to gather in Trafalgar Square, London, to protest against the British Government's decision to manufacture the hydrogen bomb.

This demonstration was the result of two weeks of intensive work by the national and local peace committees: 190,000 leaflets were distributed, 200 posters displayed at London Underground railway stations and a further 1,500 posters produced for local parades and the meeting itself.

The demonstration was addressed by Mr. R. Barrett, general secretary of the National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' union; Professor J. D. Bernal F.R.S., Vice-President of the World Council of Peace; Mr. John Burns, President of the Fire Brigades' Union; Councillor Edward Dixon, President of Coventry Trades Council; Mrs. Barbara Drake, well-known member of the Labour Party for 50 years; Mr. Theodore Harris, leading member of the Society of Friends; Mr. Harry Pollitt, general secretary of the Communist Party; and Miss Raymonde-Hawkins, member of the Sussex County Council.

A resolution adopted by the meeting called for support for the Appeal of the World Council of Peace.

After the meeting, in a procession a mile long, the 5,000 participants marched to the Cenotaph, where a wreath was laid, bearing the message 'In this atomic age Remembrance requires us to deepen our resolve that all shall live in peace.' The march took place in complete silence and its solemnity communicated itself to the thousands of bystanders who watched this moving ceremony.

Austria: Success of 'Chaplin Peace Fund' Competitions

The various competitions organised in Austria by the Charlie Chaplin Peace Fund Committee have had great success. The idea was born some months ago when the famous film actor and director decided to divide among the cities of London, Paris and Vienna the money he received as part of his International Peace Prize, stipulating that the money should be devoted to 'works inspired by a spirit of peace and understanding between the peoples'.

The number of participants shows the great interest which met the Chaplin Fund competitions. There were 440 entrants for the general competition on the question 'Why I stand for peace' and 234 in the literary competition on the theme 'Peace and understanding between the peoples'. Many composers and amateur photographers took part in the competitions for the best song on the theme 'Love of country and the desire for peace' and for the photo which best expressed the idea of 'Work, country and peace'. Moreover, 37 sports organisations submitted to the jury the names of those they consider to deserve the prize for the sportsman who through his activity has made an important contribution to the establishment of friendly relations between the peoples.

The various juries are composed of eminent intellectuals, writers, critics, artists and composers. The names of the prizewinners will be published shortly and the prizes will be awarded in May.

ROSAURA REVUELTAS, 'Salt of the Earth' Star, says:

Rosaura Revueltas as she appears in the film 'Salt of the Earth'.

'We cannot remain indifferent to the atomic threat'

The face of Rosaura Revueltas, the great Mexican actress, is already familiar to cinema goers in many countries. Those who have seen 'Salt of the Earth', that powerful film made in the United States, have had occasion to admire the gift of expression which enables her, in the principal role, to reflect the life and character of an ordinary woman. It is natural that Rosaura Revueltas, with her feeling for what is preoccupying the people, should oppose with all the passion of an artist the attempts that are being made to hurl mankind into atomic madness. Here is an extract from an interesting statement she has made on this subject:

'It is fine and reassuring to think that the people are beginning to take into their own hands an affair that so directly concerns them, and to see that never in history has there been such a wide, universal movement, and for such a noble aim, as the present one for the maintenance of peace. This must be seen as the true stamp of our civilisation, as the finest manifestation that man is determined to be free of the gloom of forest and cave to walk with firm stride across the fields of our vast world, without fear of being asked what country he belongs to.

'For many peoples the light is still wavering, but the dawn is near at hand, pregnant with life and prospects of happiness. In every town, village and hamlet, on every hill and road and ocean, in the mines, gazing excitedly through the microscope or devouring a book, kneeling on the granite floors of temples, there are people — people with simple, honest and human hearts — who want to live, to live a litte better if possible, but who are carrying the burden of a great anxiety and living in fear of a great catastrophe. American mothers, Chinese mothers, mothers of Great Britain, Russia, France, Japan, Germany and Spain ... feel the sore and torturing memory of the dear ones they have lost pale into insignificance before their awful fear that this terrible nightmare could be repeated. Out of this fear and anguish and the sacred desire to save life the Peace Movement and all of us can and must weld the great force that can ward off mass death ...

'What is needed is a real will for peace. There are millions of people who want peace but who think that it is useless to do anything, that there is nothing to fear or that fate will decide.

'This is where our work lies, in every corner of the world. We must organise those who are afraid, awake the sleepers and stimulate the pessimists. To this task we must all devote ourselves entirely.'

HOMAGE to ANDERSEN

The anniversary day of Andersen's birth, April 2, was commemorated in a variety of ways in many countries: radio and television broadcasts, lectures, films, articles, recitals, new editions of his works, essay competitions in the schools and so on.

The official celebrations in Denmark itself included a television broadcast from the house in Odense in which the great storyteller was born; the King of Denmark took part in the broadcast and read a message, while the British actor Michael Redgrave read two of Andersen's tales. There was also a procession of 5,000 children through the streets of Copenhagen; a great meeting in the Oddfellows Hall; and recitals by various artists in different parts of the town. Two great films were also presented for the first time: a documentary on Andersen's life by Jörgen Roos and a puppet film in colour based on the tale *The Little Tin Soldier*, made by the Norwegian director Ivo Caprino.

Then the Norden associations, which work for the development of the cultural, economic and social community of the Scandinavian countries, have announced an essay competition among Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian schoolchildren from 12 to 16 years of age on the following subject: 'Which of Andersen's tales do you prefer and why?' The prizewinners will visit Denmark for a week in the summer.

In the Soviet Union many events are being held in honour of Andersen. Lectures on his life and works are being given in the palaces of culture, clubs and libraries. The children's theatres are putting on various plays based on his tales and in the Pioneer Clubs special days have been appointed for the commemoration. On April 1st the Soviet Peace Committee, the Writers' Union and V.O.K.S. organised a well attended memorial meeting at the central children's theatre.

Germany Celebrates Schiller's Anniversary

The commemoration of the cultural anniversaries recommended by the World Council of Peace is going ahead in a number of countries. In Germany, in particular, important events in honour of Schiller will be held in Weimar from May 8-15 and well-known persons from Great Britain, Sweden, the Soviet Union, France, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Belgium, Poland and Norway have been invited to take part.

There will be a very varied programme, including concerts, plays — *Wilhelm Tell* and *Wallenstein* by the Weimar National Theatre, *Don Carlos* and *Intrigue and Love* by the Berlin Theatre, *Marie Stuart* by the Stuttgart Theatre, *The Parasite* by the Leipzig Theatre — memorial meetings, an international book sale, scientific discussions between German and foreign students at the German Students' Meeting at Jena, a carnival, a torchlight procession, and so on. Throughout the week visits to different parts of Weimar which have links with classical German literature will be organised.

Schiller will also be commemorated in other countries.

In Bulgaria, for example, there will be a memorial meeting in the National Theatre in Sofia on May 14, followed by a performance of *Don Carlos*. Memorial meetings have also been organised in various towns in the provinces.

In Rumania, the principal theatres will put on *Don Carlos*, *The Robbers* and *Intrigue and Love*.

Scrolls for the World Assembly

Proposal by the American artist Anton Refregier

Anton Refregier, the well-known American artist, has written from New York to the World Council of Peace with a proposal addressed to all artists who are friends of peace throughout the world.

In order that artists may contribute to the World Assembly through their art, Anton Refregier proposes that scrolls should be circulated to the painters and black-and-white artists of various countries. On these they would treat the theme of peace in the way they considered most appropriate.

An engraving on the theme of peace by the American painter Anton Refregier. It symbolises the beating of swords into ploughshares.

The scrolls would therefore illustrate the art of the different peoples, thereby symbolising international unity in the struggle for peace. They would be used to decorate the hall of the World Assembly in Helsinki and could then be exhibited in different parts of the world.

The first artists consulted on this proposal gave it their unqualified support. There is no doubt that it will receive the same welcome from all artists who defend the cause of peace and brotherhood between the peoples.

In order to facilitate the work and so that it may be ready by the time of the Assembly, it is proposed that one of the scrolls should go to the United States and Great Britain, another to Japan, China, India and the other countries of Asia, a third to France, Italy, Germany and Belgium, and others to the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries, the Arab countries and Latin America.

London Sees Japanese Panels Condemning Atomic War

A great number of people, including many artists and intellectuals, have visited the exhibition of paintings by the Japanese artists, Toshiko Akamatsu and her husband Iri Maruki, which was held in London from March 26 to April 7. These 'Hiroshima Panels' depict the horrors of the atomic bomb raid on that city in 1945 and were presented by Artists for Peace, a grouping of artists with greatly differing political and aesthetic views, but united in their opposition to weapons of mass destruction.

The sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein inaugurated the exhibition which was also sponsored by other eminent persons in the field of art: Ruskin Spear A.R.A.; Carel Weight R.B.A.; Stanley Spencer C.B.E., R.A.; Leslie Hurry, a specialist in stage decoration; John Berger, art critic; the Welsh painter Josef Herman; and Denis Matthews R.A.

An exhibition of the same panels has been sponsored in Coventry by the City Council and the Anti-Hydrogen Bomb League.

The great effect that the exhibition has had once again shows the British people's anxiety before the atomic threat and their desire to put up a vigorous opposition to the use of these terror weapons.

Science for Peace

Annual General Meeting Considers Effects of Nuclear Weapons

Science for Peace was established at a national conference of scientists held in London in January 1952 and is open to all natural and social scientists, engineers and technical assistants. Its purpose is 'to unite scientists in actions towards removing the danger of a third world war and ensuring that science can be fully used for constructive purposes'.

It held its Annual General Meeting in London on March 26 with Professor F.G. Gregory F.R.S. in the chair. The meeting was followed by a public conference: 'Nuclear explosions — their long-term effects'.

The meteorological and biological aspects of this problem were dealt with by Professor P.A. Sheppard, who spoke on 'Nuclear Explosions and the Weather'; by Dr. J.H. Fremlin, who dealt with the suject of 'Radioactive Rain'; and by Dr. A. Ryle, who gave an account of the Japanese scientific reports on the biological effects of atomic explosions.

The second part of the conference was on the question 'Atoms for Peace — not War', the opening speaker being Dr. E.H.S. Burhop on the subject 'The Problem of Abolition and Control'.

The great American scientist Albert Einstein sent a message to the conference.

Paul Robeson Invited to Great Britain by Sportsmen, Theatrical Workers and Cine Technicians

The great American singer Paul Robeson has announced that he has accepted an invitation to appear at a series of concerts in Great Britain. The invitation was sent by Mr. Dave Curtis, General Secretary of the British Worker's Sports Association, for the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the B.W.S.A. which is associated with the Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party. It was also signed by Mr. Tom O'Brien, General Secretary of the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees, and Mr. George Elvin, General Secretary of the Association of Cine Technicians. The invitation also carried with it the request for Mr. Robeson to appear on May 1st at a concert in the Adelphi Theatre in London, sponsored by *Reynolds News*, official organ of the British Co-operative Movement.

In replying to the communication, Mr. Robeson said: 'Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to accept your invitation. I have a deep interest in all sports developments... Since my days as an All-American football player at Rutgers University I have had a continuing interest in sports. Particularly am I pleased that the Adelphi Theatre concert is to aid the International Fund, the purpose of which is to assist and encourage the visit of British workers' teams and cultural groups to other countries. Such exchange undoubtedly helps to promote friendship and understanding among peoples.'

Mr. Robeson mentioned in his reply that the Silver Jubilee Anniversary coincides with his own thirtieth anniversary as a singer and actor and that many friends in the United States have indicated that they will mark this occasion in many ways throughout the year.

He again called attention to the fact that since 1950, the U.S. State Department has continued its refusal to renew his passport and that a suit is now pending in the Federal Court.

'However,' said Mr. Robeson, 'I consider this invitation of such importance that I am exploring all available avenues in order to fulfil these engagements. To me, the invitation is significant evidence of the united desire of the majority of the British people to have me continue my long personal association with them. This is very heartening. I look forward to the time when a similar united expression takes place in these United States to guarantee for all people the right to travel without arbitrary restrictions.'

The Signature Campaign in Argentine

On March 5, the opening day of the campaign in Argentine, ten teams of collectors started collecting door-to-door in the Paternal district of Buenos Aires. March 19 and 20 were observed as special collecting days. Seventeen teams went out and one of them announced with enthusiasm that even soldiers did not refuse to sign.

This fact deserves mention because it shows the growing success of the campaign in Argentine. And good news of decisive experiences is coming in from many districts of the capital.

In the Central district ten teams collected 1,217 signatures on March 19 and 20. In a cafe, one of the regular customers went from table to table collecting. He got 60 signatures, including the orchestra.

A team in the Almagro South district stated that out of 30 houses visited, only three people refused to sign.

Of course, everyone collects signatures in his or her own circle. A doctor has so far collected 120 among his patients and neighbours; a Protestant milliner collects among her clients; a bus conductor collects signatures among his passengers; a worker in a refrigerating factory of the town of Eva Peron, formerly La Plata, has collected 60 signatures among his workmates; a sales-girl in a big shop in Buenos Aires got those of the 30 girls working at the same counter, and so on.

The local peace committees are intensifying their publicity work. For example, the Santa Fe Provincial Peace Council has sent more than 3,000 letters to organisations and personalities asking them to join in the campaign and has taken steps to ensure a big attendance at the first conference in the northern region of the province.

The peace committee of the Mataderos district has issued 10,000 sticky-backs against the thermonuclear tests it is planned to hold in the Antarctic. In this district the young people are playing an active part in the campaign and have set up a number of committees.

A Good Idea

This information on the campaign in Argentine was sent to us by a correspondent who says in his letter that he is going to send in news for the Bulletin every week.

At a house meeting in Villa Crespo a new peace committee was formed; it decided to take part in the collection of signatures and enthusiastically welcomed the proposal to send a delegate to the World Assembly in Helsinki. It should be stressed that many local peace committees have been set up in the course of the campaign, both in Buenos Aires and in the provinces: three in the Liniers district of the capital; another in the garage of the Central District Transport Corporation; a third committee has been set up in Barrio Once; seven in the department of San Cristobal in the province of Santa Fe; one has been set up by the book-keepers of Rosario; a regional council has been formed in Ianus and a factory committee at Vicente Lopez in the province of Buenos Aires; and one each at Rivadavia, Eray Luis Beltran and Godoy Cruz in the province of Mendoza.

As a result of the campaign the Peace Council of Entre Rios has begun to function and it has set up committees in the towns of Diamante and Concordia.

The campaign has met with a great response among the people and new circles have given their support to the Vienna Appeal. In a parish near the town of Eva Peron it was signed by the priest and 180 of his congregation. It has also been signed by the director of the newspaper *El Litoral* of Santa Fe, by a number of industrialists of the same city and the leader of the tobacco workers' trade union. At Ramos Mejia in the province of Buenos Aires a group of women got Socialist and Radical women to take part in the campaign, together with priests and tradesmen.

The Appeal has also been supported by many branch leaders of the Peronista Party and by personalities and members of the Radical Party. A local peace committee of the province of Buenos Aires states that members of Catholic Action are participating in the campaign. A leader of this organisation has personally distributed the Appeal and has had it published in the local organ of Catholic Action.

'Atomic Weapons and International Law'

A pamphlet by Professor Heinrich Brandweiner

The German Peace Council has just published a pamphlet by Professor Heinrich Brandweiner, President of the Austrian Peace Council, member of the German Academy of Sciences and Professor of Canon Law at Graz University. The pamphlet is entitled 'Atomic Weapons and International Law' and is a legal exposition of the problems of atomic war. The Stockholm and Vienna Appeals are reproduced on the first page. A high scientific level is maintained throughout but the pamphlet can be understood by anyone.

Using scientific arguments, Professor Brandweiner shows that the use of atomic weapons in the event of war is a violation of international law. Similarly, he proves that the Bikini hydrogen bomb tests were a triple violation of international law. His detailed criticism of the theories of eminent American lawyers which justify the use of atomic weapons by the United Nations in the event of war — theories which have no basis in law — will also arouse great interest.

Round the World with the Vienna Appeal . . .

Geneva

Many trade union organisations have endorsed the Vienna Appeal or have passed resolutions which support its aims.

At their general meetings, the workers of the Similor, Hispano, Gardy, Charmilles and Nationale engineering factories have gone on record for the banning of thermonuclear weapons.

Committees of persons representing all circles are being organised to collect signatures in the various districts of the city. The young members of the Free Youth are distinguishing themselves in the collection of signatures; they have already got more than 2,000.

Toronto

The National Executive Committee of the Canadian Workers' Benevolent Society (membership 14,000) has enthusiastically welcomed the Vienna Appeal. It asks all its supporters and all honest people to sign.

Stockholm

The Stockholm Municipal Worker's Union has unanimously decided to support the Vienna Appeal.

Two young people, Sylvia Nilsson and Anders Blomkvist, have collected 700 signatures between them.

Montevideo

In Montevideo on March 11 the Uruguayan Peace Council held an extended meeting which was attended by representative of trade unions and a variety of organisations, some of which do not support the Movement. The trade union representatives stated that the collection of signatures against atomic war had successfully begun in the factories.

An appeal adopted at the end of the meeting asks the people of Uruguay to sign the Vienna Appeal and decisions were taken which will ensure that Uruguay is worthily represented at the World Assembly in Helsinki.

Luxemburg

The signature campaign was opened at the beginning of April by the Luxemburg Peace Movement together with other forces for peace. During March the aims of the campaign had been popularised through meetings, posters and articles in the press.

Subscription lists are being circulated to cover the costs of the delegation to the World Assembly.

Oslo

The Oslo section of the Sheet-Metal Workers' Union has sent to the president of the Parliament a letter which says;

'We oppose the putting of atomic weapons into the hands of German military men. Atomic energy must be used for peaceful purposes and not for war. The only solution, therefore, is that the use of atomic weapons be banned.'

Warsaw

At meetings and demonstrations in Poland, workers and peasants, teachers and students are demanding the banning of atomic and thermonuclear weapons and the destruction of all stocks of these weapons. In the voivode of Bydgoszcz, for example more than 2,000 such meetings were held in the towns and villages.

A delegation has handed to the Dutch Government a letter signed by 200 doctors, artists, priests and writers. The letter asks the Government to go on record at the United Nations for the banning of all atomic weapons and the stopping of all atomic bomb tests.

Reproduction authorised. Please acknowledge source.

Eigentümer, Herausgeber und Verleger: Roland Vuillaume, Redakteur des Informationsdienstes des Sekretariats des Weltfriedensrates, Wien IV, Tlignerstraße 4/6. — Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Max Ungar, Wien XXII, K raygasse 48. — Druck: Globus II, Wien VI, Gumpendorferstraße 40—44.

Preparing the World Assembly for Peace

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BULLETIN OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

No. 2 April 15, 1955

32.26.22

FRANCE

National Assembly for Peace

The National Assembly for Peace, organised by the National Council of the French Peace Movement, was an important event in French preparations for the World Assembly for Peace.

The unity achieved at the Assembly provided indisputable proof that the consolidation of the forces of peace, already very wide in France, will progress yet further in the struggle for peace.

The very nature of the discussion showed this. Dozens of speeches were made in the plenary sessions or in the commissions by scientists, professors, writers, artists, workers, elected representatives of all opinions, leaders of all kinds of political organisations, religious figures and mothers. This diversity was equally reflected in the composition of each delegation and the composition of the platform.

✶

Professor Leon Wagner, of the Sorbonne, who gave the opening report, stated:

'For us the word 'Peace' does not mean that precarious political stability which someone imposes on his partners through solutions of strength...' He went on to point out:

'The forces of peace which exist among all the peoples have become aware of their strength. Today they are on their way to breaking down all the obstacles which divide them and thus thwart their potentialities.

'By coming together here today we are expressing in France and for France that understanding between the forces of peace which will be expressed on an international level at Helsinki. The forces of peace may have different views on a whole number of subjects, and they will, correctly, reserve the right to hold their opinions. But on the aim which we have just defined, on the necessity to use all means for reaching it, on the urgent need to overcome all the obstacles which

(Contd. on page 2)

Secretary of Finnish Social Democratic Youth a delegate to World Assembly

The United Organisation of Work for Peace has decided to take part in the World Assembly in Helsinki. It will be represented by its Secretary, Mr. Pentti Sulonen, who is also Secretary of the National Centre of the Social Democratic Youth.

Furthermore, the United Organisation of Work for Peace has recommended its member organisations to send delegates to the Assembly as well. Among these organisations are: the Social Democratic Party, the Finnish T.U.C., the National Centre of the Co-operative Movement and the Social-Democratic Women's Organisation.

One card equals 140 yards of the 6,000 mile journey from Tokyo to Helsinki

It is 6,000 miles from Tokyo to Helsinki... and the travelling expenses of the Japanese delegation will be heavy.

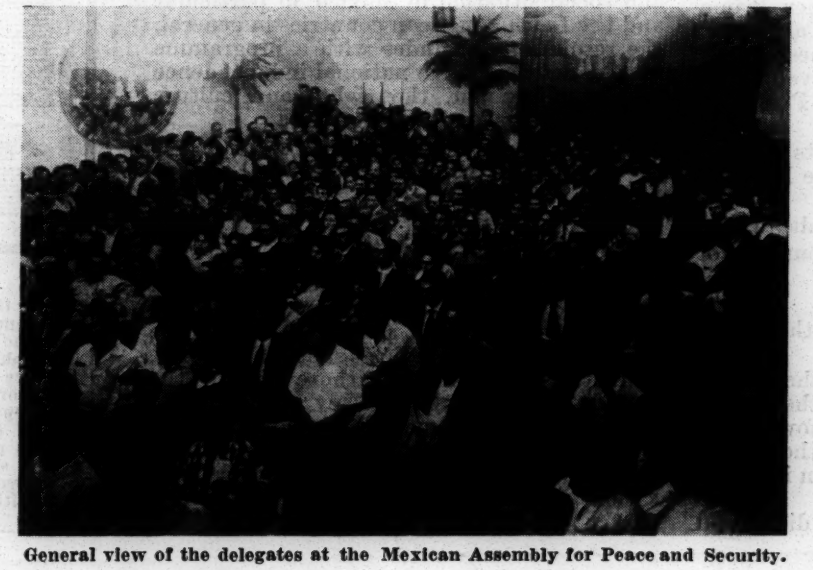
To raise the necessary money, two cards have been published and put on sale.

One of them bears a picture of a dove and the other a reproduction of 'Fujiyama', a painting by the famous Japanese artist Hokusai (1760—1849).

They are sold under the slogan 'one card to every 140 yards', since the price of each card represents the fare for 140 yards of the 6,000 mile journey. Thus the sale of 80,000 cards will cover the fare for one delegate.

MEXICO

National Assembly for Peace and Security



General view of the delegates at the Mexican Assembly for Peace and Security.

The National Assembly for Peace and Security which was recently held in Mexico demonstrated the Mexican people's interest in the World Assembly for Peace.

More than 600 people took part in the Assembly which was held on March 29, 30 and 31 at the call of 121 individuals and 31 organisations.

Among those who took part in the Mexican Assembly were:

General Heriberto Jara Corona, former government minister; Mr. Vicente Lombardo Toledano, president of the Confederation of Latin American workers; the famous film star Rosaura Revueltas; Mr. Manuel Ruiz, representing the con-

(Contd. on page 2)

National Assembly for Peace in France

(Contd. from page 1)

are put in our way, they are unanimous in their determination . . .'

After a thorough examination of current problems in the struggle for peace in France and an analysis of the Vienna Appeal, Professor Wagner concluded by stating the three aims of the action to be carried on: negotiation, security and disarmament.

The Closing Statement

After Professor Wagner's report, a very full discussion was held which concluded with the adoption of several documents including the following appeal to take part in the World Assembly:

'The revival of German militarism means that France is in danger of losing her security and her position as a great power.

'France is also in danger of becoming a target for atomic weapons.

'Men and women of France, you must unite and demand now that the French Government keeps its promise to negotiate.

'Negotiate for the peaceful solution of the German problem before the Wehrmacht is revived. Negotiate in Asia so that the peace in Indo-China shall not be a mere truce and so that France can establish bonds of friendship and co-operation with the people of Viet-Nam. Negotiate for a close and fraternal association with the peoples of the French overseas possessions before new war centres spring up.

'Negotiate for the destruction of all atomic bombs and for disarmament, before the armaments race results in the catastrophe of a third world war . . .

'The National Assembly for Peace, meeting at Drancy on April 2—3, makes a solemn appeal to French public opinion to take part in the World Assembly for Peace which will open in Helsinki on May 22, by sending a delegation fully representative of all political and social circles.

'Men and women of France, you are united in your solidarity. Only your united action can regain the independence of France.

'Men and women of France, you are united in your solidarity with all the peoples of the world: with them, since you are all faced with a common danger, you will seek the salvation of all in peace and negotiation.'

Among the many notable individuals present at the French National Assembly were: the writer Vercors, who chaired the opening session; Mr. Jean Marie Domenach, director of the review 'Esprit'; Mr. Jacques Chatagner, active Christian, and director of the newspaper 'La Quinzaine'; Mr. Deville, Vice-President of the Meurthe-et-Moselle Radical Federation; Mr. Martial Bellugue, socialist county councillor; Mr. Sutty, former county councillor, and several other well-known socialists. Mr. Dupleix, secretary of the French Committee of the European Workers' Conference, took part, as did Roger Philipon, Gaullist Deputy Mayor of Perigueux; Mr. Roger Pigaut, the actor, who represented the 'Plays for Peace' committee; Jacques Nantet of the Young Republic; and the members of the Presiding Committee of the Peace Movement.

Professor Joliot-Curie made an important speech on the signature campaign and the problems of the use of atomic weapons, and the General Secretary of the World Council of Peace, Mr. Jean Laffitte, greeted the Assembly on behalf of the World Council.

Hundreds of Public Rallies

A wide variety of methods were used to choose delegates for the National Assembly. In particular, the French Peace Movement organised hundreds of public rallies at which delegates were chosen. These gatherings ranged from meetings of the tenants of a particular block of flats or street to meetings of the people of an entire neighbourhood or meetings at work-places. It was at such meetings that the people considered the questions to be discussed and took the necessary organisational steps.

A large number of these meetings are being held to popularise the World Assembly in Helsinki, stimulate the signature campaign and carry on the struggle against the London and Paris Agreements.

Mexican Assembly for Peace and Security

(Contd. from page 1)

gregation of the Jesuit church at Oaxaca; Mr. Enrique Cabrera, Mr. Mario Salazar Mallen and Mr. Guillermo Montano, all three representing scientific circles; and the painter Miguel Covarrubias.

The World Council of Peace was represented by Mrs. Isabelle Blume, Secretary of the Council. Mr. Jose Giral, former Prime Minister of the Spanish Republic also took part in the Assembly, and a message of greetings and support was received from General Lazaro Cardenas, former President of the Mexican Republic.

The agenda included four points dealing with the particular problems of the Mexican people:

1. The threat to the national culture.
2. Foreign interference in the countries of Latin America.
3. The atomic danger.
4. Organisational problems of the Peace Movement.

General Jara's opening speech, the reports presented on each of the points on the agenda and the discussion brought out how necessary the maintenance and strengthening of world peace are to Mexico if its own interests are to be protected.

The resolution adopted after the discussion on the second point on the agenda states on this subject:

'With the intensification of warlike preparations there is an increasing threat of a world war which would involve Latin America . . .'

After noting the repercussions of these war preparations on the political, economic and social situation in Mexico in particular and the Latin American countries in general, the resolution concludes with a programme for the defence of the national independence and economy and the rights and culture of the peoples of Latin America.

The Voice of Young Catholics

Mr. Manuel Ruiz, representing the congregation of the Jesuit Church at Oaxaca made a powerful contribution to the discussion:

'The young Roman Catholics whom I represent offer you their co-operation and wish to be considered as defenders of peace who, in Mexico and throughout the world, work to stay the hand of those who are the enemies of all mankind. They condemn any government, without distinction, which would dare to use nuclear weapons and demand the destruction of stocks and the cessation of their manufacture in the interests of the peace and security of the peoples.

In the preparations for the Mexican National Assembly for Peace popular tradition was used in the service of peace. The Studio of Popular Graphic Art, which won an International Peace Prize for 1952, illustrated and published a 'corrido' or popular romance by Candido Tepepa entitled 'Corrido del Congreso de la Paz' (Romance of the Congress for Peace). This poem was posted up and distributed in the streets and markets, thus informing everyone of the Assembly in a vivid way traditional to Mexico.

Colombia Elects

The National Conference of the Colombian Peace M
part of the country and representing a wide range of or
Conference entrusted the Colombian Peace Council,
designate Colombia's representatives to the World Ass
very representative, will include members of trade uni
barristers, writers and students.

The Conference unanimously approved the followi

'This Conference of the Peace Movement, meeting in
efforts to give the peoples a means of self-expression and
won for the cause of peace. It hopes that the World
to prevent atomic war, which is now being prepared,
international differences and consolidate co-operation
independence of the peoples.'

In the chair were Mr. Nieto Caballero, a Liberal v
Conservative M. P.; and Mr. Diego Montana Cuellar, ge
and former Mayor of Bogota. The Conference received
ing one from Don Baldomero Sanin Cano, a Stalin Peace
ian Peace Movement.

Two Special Planes Charter

Two special planes have been chartered to take Br
The industrial area of West Yorkshire has elected four
illor and an Anglican vicar.

Many ministers of religion are showing a keen inter
did not belong to any peace organisation, have said th

A Surrey local peace committee has published an app
Signatures are being collected for it door-to-door and
to cover the expenses of the Surrey delegates to th

The British Peace Committee is preparing a special
May 1st. A section of it is devoted to a number of que
should figure on the agenda of the Assembly, and the

French West and Equa
Represented

The Co-ordinating Committee of the trade unions of
met in St. Louis on March 12, 13 and 14 and called on
Helsinki together with other organisations, the people

lects its Delegation

an Peace Movement, attended by 500 delegates from every range of organisations, was held in Bogota on March 25. The Council, in co-operation with the district committees, to World Assembly in Helsinki. This delegation, which will be f trade union and peasant organisations, doctors, engineers,

he following resolution:

meeting in Bogota, greets the World Council of Peace whose ression and to organise their activity are behind the successes he World Assembly for Peace called for May 22 will help prepared, make negotiations prevail for the settlement of -operation of the nations for the progress, well-being and

Liberal writer and former ambassador; Mr. Carlos A. Lis, Cuellar, general Secretary of the Colombian Peace Movement e received many messages from all over the country includ- talin Peace Prize winner in 1945 and President of the Colomb-

artered for Britain's Delegates

o take Britain's delegates direct from London to Helsinki. cted four delegates including a Labour Party County Counc-

keen interest in the Assembly and several, who up till now ave said that they would like to take part.

ned an appeal to the foreign delegations that will go Helsinki. door and the collectors at the same time ask for donations ates to the Assembly.

a special number of its *Newsletter* which will come out on ber of questions which, in the opinion of our British friends, , and there are four pages on the hydrogen bomb.

Equatorial Africa will be ted at Helsinki

unions of French West and Equatorial Africa and Togoland called on the trade unions to prepare to send delegates to he people and public figures.

Representatives from Dakar, Senegal and Mauritania, French Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Niger, Togoland and the Independent Federation of Railwaymen took part in the discussions.

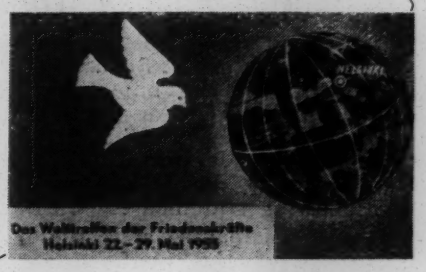
An important recommendation was unanimously adopted. It notes the aggravation of the international situation through the ratification of the London and Paris Agreements which will have unfortunate consequences in both the economic and political spheres, particularly through the danger of atomic war to which it gives rise.

They therefore recommend the trade unions to pay more attention to the struggle for peace.

Posters

On the walls of every city in the world are posters announcing the holding of the World Assembly and inviting the people to send their representatives. On the left is a Japanese poster, printed in 50,000 copies, which says: 'Send delegates to the World Assembly for Peace! Sign the Vienna Appeal against atomic war!'

The poster on the right is to be seen in the towns and villages of Austria.



80 Japanese Personalities

At the present time local committees in a number of Japan's major towns, including Tokyo, Asahikawa and Muroram, are preparing to send delegates to the World Assembly. A National Committee of more than 80 personalities was set up on April 1st.

The Miner's Union (membership 280,000) is conducting a signature campaign in support of the Assembly and in order to send representatives to it.

A meeting has been held in the town of Musashino-Shi under the auspices of the Council against the A and H bombs to send the mayor of the town to Helsinki as a delegate.

Mass Campaign in Uruguay

The Assembly of the Uruguayan Peace Council, held in Montevideo in March, adopted a resolution on the Uruguayan people's participation in the World Assembly.

After giving its enthusiastic support to the World Assembly, the meeting recommended to the Executive Committee that a representative delegation be sent to Helsinki and invited all organisations for peace to send delegates as well.

The Assembly decided to organise a mass campaign to collect the money necessary to cover the expenses of the delegates and to hold a National Peace Conference immediately after the delegates' return from Helsinki.

Organisational steps, particularly the setting up of a number of commissions, were taken to ensure that these various tasks are carried through.

Australia: Victoria Chooses its Delegates

The State of Victoria has already chosen its delegates: Rev. Neil Glover, Vicar of St. Mathias' Church, Richmond, who is very popular in his parish, and Mr. Sam Goldbloom, a business-man who served for four years in the R.A.A.F. during the war.

The preparations for the World Assembly are being carried on successfully throughout Australia and approaches are being made to all organisations and tendencies for peace in order to ensure that Australia is widely represented at Helsinki.

The Reverend Alfred Dickie recently stated: 'I would be very happy to see all sorts of bodies nominating and sponsoring visitors and delegates to this Assembly.

'The Assembly comes at a vital time in the history of world affairs and ... could affect very materially the course of history.'

Leaders of the Australian Peace Council are visiting every Australian State to carry forward the preparations for the World Assembly.

The Saar

The Saar Peace Committee has put on sale 10,000 postcards bearing the text of the Vienna Appeal. The money raised in this way will help defray the expenses of the Saar delegation to the World Assembly which will be elected at the Saar Peace Conference.

Germany: From District Conferences to the National Congress

The struggle against the London and Paris Agreements, the danger of the remilitarisation of West Germany and the preparations for atomic war are giving rise to intensive activity in preparation for the World Assembly for Peace.

There have been district conferences throughout the German Democratic Republic in preparation for the German Congress for Security and Peace, which will be held in Dresden on April 24.

Among the speakers at these conferences were such public figures as Mr. Otto Buchwitz, President of the German Red Cross; Pastor Kleinschmidt; Professor Tacke; Mr. Max Friedemann, Deputy Minister of Heavy Industry; and Mr. Heinz Willman, General Secretary of the German Peace Council.

All sections of the people helped in financing the conferences. For example, Mr. Dietrich Muller, a Rostock student, collected 300 marks for the German Peace Fund and has promised to collect 400 more. Also in Rostock, the personnel of the 'Neptun' dockyard gave 1,000 marks to the Peace Fund.

When the district peace conferences are over the German Congress for Security and Peace will be held in preparation for the World Assembly in Helsinki. Public figures have announced that they will take part, including Mr. Otto Nuschke, Deputy Prime Minister; Mr. Johannes Becher, Minister of Culture; Mrs. Anna Seghers, the writer Arnold Zweig; Professor Steiniger, chairman of the German United Nations Association; and Professor Herz, the theologian from Leipzig. In all there will be 1,300 delegates from the German Democratic Republic at the Congress, plus a strong delegation from the German Federal Republic and foreign visitors. The Congress will re-elect the German Peace Council and designate the delegates to the World Assembly.

'We Expect Big Results from the Assembly'

says Finnish Workers Conference

In the name of the Sponsoring Committee of the Conference of Finnish Workers for Peace, Mr. Matti Lahdenmäk, the Chairman, and Mr. Into Kälnio, the Secretary, have sent us the following statement:

'The participants and the organisers of the Conference of Finnish Workers for Peace expect big results from the World Assembly for Peace which will be held in Helsinki at the end of May.

'At this great gathering, thousands of representatives of different nations, different walks of life, different social circles and different beliefs will meet in our capital. This very fact will be a concrete proof of the present strength of the idea of peace. But, above all, this Assembly will show the way for the forces of peace to make new efforts to eliminate first of all the terrible danger of atomic war which threatens mankind.

'It is our hope and our conviction that there will be a great increase of activity in the struggle for peace as a result of this Assembly and we hope and believe that this will be as true of Finland as of the other countries of the world.'

It will be remembered that the Finnish Workers' Conference for Peace took place in Helsinki on December 5, last year, on the initiative of the workers of a big factory in Tampere. This Conference, as the Bulletin of the World Council of Peace reported at the time, attracted great interest throughout the country. 1,200 workers of the most diverse political views took part in response to the Appeal of a widely representative sponsoring committee.

In 1812, when Helsinki became the capital of Finland, the built-up area covered no more than a hundred acres and the population numbered no more than 4,000.

A century later the city had grown to seven square miles with a population of 160,000. At the last census the population totalled nearly 400,000.

In Helsinki today there are a great many modern structures in different styles. The photo above shows the chief railway terminus and surrounding buildings.

This Badge . . .

. . . the Finnish Emblem of Friendship, will go all round the world.

The Finnish National Peace Committee has taken a number of steps to stimulate the campaign.

Gold and silver badges will be awarded to the best signature-collectors representing, in the form of a dove, the traditional Finnish emblem of friendship.

The badges will bear the wording 'Helsinki 1955'. Each recipient will be able to send the badge with his greetings to the country of his choice where it will be given to one of the delegates to the World Assembly.

The Peace Committees and collectors are making a great drive for signatures and are organising meetings to make known and popularise the Assembly and its aims. The National Peace Committee is convinced that every delegate coming to the Assembly will have received a badge, the symbol of the Finnish people's work for peace.

PUBLIC FIGURES EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT

Mr. Deryck Siven, Vice-President of the Finnish Pacifist Union and a member of the Executive Committee of the Fellowship of Reeonciliation in Finland:

'Worried by the imminent danger of war and the increase in armaments, the people, irrespective of nationality, religious faith and political views, are supporting in growing numbers the demands of the World Council of Peace for the banning of modern weapons of mass destruction, which threaten alike capitalists and communists, Christians, pagans, black, brown and white men. It is the duty of all of us to state our position in face of the great world problems, the settlement of which is the decisive condition for the preservation of civilisation and the human race itself. Christians, those who follow the Prince of Peace, believing that Love alone can conquer Evil, have a particular responsibility. If the Christians of the world take their doctrine seriously, they must feel themselves called upon to take an active part in the international work for peace and they must give an enthusiastic welcome to the World Assembly for Peace which will be held in Helsinki in May.

'May the Assembly lead growing numbers of Finnish men and women to see the necessity of working for peace and may it be successful in giving clear and powerful expression to the nations' will to peace, so that responsible states will be obliged to reject the policy of strength which sooner or later leads to war and strive to achieve an international state of justice, the millenium foretold by the founders of religions and for which the noblest souls have worked.'

*

Professor Goran von Bonsdorff of Helsinki University:

'The World Assembly for Peace is to be held in Helsinki, in a country which has known great suffering in war. The Finnish people are therefore anxious to do all they can now to safeguard peace. It is in our vital interest to contribute to the lessening of East-West tension and to strengthen understanding and mutual respect between States with different political and social systems. If the World Assembly for Peace gives positive results in this sense, I can assure you that Finland will give it its full support and deep gratitude.'

*

Reverend Armas Tolsa, Director of the Settlement Institute of Kalliola, Helsinki:

'To avert the danger of atomic war, we must call on all men of good sense irrespective of race, nationality, social position and creed, for we are all threatened. The statesmen who decide war and peace have an enormous responsibility and we have to make them understand that they have no right to use their power for the destruction of life.

'Thus the World Assembly for Peace to be held in Helsinki in May has two important tasks. It must call upon and rally the peoples to the cause of peace, regardless of frontiers. There are still far too many sceptical and prejudiced people. We have to make people understand that work for peace is not party politics and that the demand for the banning of atomic weapons is not turned only in one direction: it concerns all peoples alike. The other task is to make the voice of millions of peace-loving people heard by the leading statesmen in such a way that they cannot neglect it.'

PASSPORT FORMALITIES FOR FINLAND

Delegates from the following countries do not need visas to enter Finland:

Algeria	Greece	Monaco
Austria	Holland	Saar Territory
Belgium	Iceland	San Marino
France	Italy	Switzerland
German Fed. Rep.	Liechtenstein	Tunisia
Great Britain	Luxemburg	Turkey

● Delegates from Denmark, Norway and Sweden need neither passports nor visas.

● The amount of Finnish currency which can be taken in to the country is 20,000 Finnish marks.

● There is no limit on the amount of foreign currency or travellers' cheques which can be taken into Finland.

Reproduction authorised. Please acknowledge source.

Eigentümer, Herausgeber und Verleger: Roland Vuillaume, Redakteur des Informationsdienstes des Sekretariats des Weltfriedensrates, Wien IV, Tilgnerstraße 4/6. — Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Max Ungar, Wien XXII, Kraygasse 48. — Druck: Globus II, Wien VI, Gumpendorferstraße 40—44.

[World Peace Council]

SECRETARIAT
OF THE
WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

ESTATE-HAUS
WIEN IV
MÖLLWALD-PLATZ 5
AUSTRIA

O/bw

Vienna, April 19, 1955

Dr. W.E. Du Bois,
United States

Dear Friend,

Many thanks for your letter of March 25. I have studied carefully the very interesting questions it raises.

You are quite correct in saying that it is not for us to pass moral judgement on the positive standpoints which certain individuals may take up today in connection with the struggle for peace on the basis of acts they may have committed in the past.

As we said in our last letter, the Los Angeles speech, in condemning war as a means of settling international differences, has a positive character which we are far from underestimating. We understand that, for the same reasons and in view of the present situation in the United States, you attach great importance to this statement.

Is there, however, sufficient reason for the World Council of Peace to publish and distribute this speech?

We have stressed that the theme which is developed in this speech, viz., that it is necessary above all to 'abolish war', can sow serious confusion among public opinion just when the world campaign against the preparations for atomic war is getting into its stride. Moreover, General MacArthur develops certain ideas which seem to indicate his refusal to envisage the abolition of atomic weapons and the organisation of disarmament. He states for example:

'Must we...trifle in the meanwhile with corollary and indeterminate theses - such as limitation of armaments, restriction on the use of nuclear power...? '

This being so, we could, by publishing this speech either let it be thought that the Council supports such ideas, or add comments to the publication which in the eyes of some would make us appear to be lacking in objectivity.

Finally, the information which we have seems to justify me in saying that this statement has already enjoyed considerable publicity. Also, you seem to indicate in your letter that while not commenting editorially on this speech the United States press did at least report it. As for the press of Western Europe, most of the daily newspapers published large extracts along with much

27-16-4

comment, e.g., The Manchester Guardian in Great Britain, Le Monde in France, le Journal de Geneve in Switzerland, La Libre Belgique in Belgium, Le Corriere della Sera and L'Unita in Italy. As for the news agencies, it was transmitted by France-Presse for example, this being the source utilised by our Information Department.

I hope that these various points will see us in full agreement on the matter.

We thank you, too, for raising another very important matter in your letter, namely, the Peace Movement in the U.S.A.

We should like to say straight away that we understand very well the difficult position facing the peace forces in the U.S.A. but that we have confidence in the result of the efforts they are making at the present time. Your letter confirms that they are still making themselves felt in spite of every kind of obstacle - a fact which we find most gratifying.

27-16-5

Moreover, we are considering your very interesting suggestion that we should try to link up and establish close relations with all those who are working for peace in the United States. We would therefore be very glad if you could let us have soon detailed proposals which would enable us to take concrete steps at the earliest opportunity.

You end your letter by pointing out the serious difficulties which have prevented you from taking part in the different international gatherings of our Movement and which might very well prevent you from coming to the World Assembly in Helsinki. Those taking part in the sessions of the World Council and in the Congresses of our Movement have always had in mind the special difficulties and the courageous struggle of the American friends of peace. The minutes during which we listened to the recordings bringing us the great voice of Paul Robeson have always been among the most moving of our gatherings.

We want you to know that the problem of United States participation in the World Assembly is our constant concern at the present time and if you can make any suggestions that would help us to solve it we would be very glad to have them at an early date. Perhaps you and a few friends could go quickly into the matter.

In closing, may I say how pleased we are to have this exchange of correspondence and that we hope to hear from you again soon.

With every good wish,

Yours very sincerely,

For the Secretariat of the
World Council of Peace

Jean Laffitte
General Secretary

[World Peace Council]

PRESS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICE
OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

Estate-Haus, Mollwaldplatz 5, Wien IV

No 71 April 19, 1955

EMINENT FIGURES EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE WORLD ASSEMBLY FOR PEACE TO BE HELD IN HELSINKI, MAY 22 - 29

Doctor Nobuo Kusano, Member of the Japanese Institute for the Study of Infectious Diseases

'As a Japanese scientist and particularly as a member of the medical research team which conducted an inquiry into the damage wreaked by atomic weapons, I know the destructive power of these weapons; nor do I forget the soundless call of the victims of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

'I therefore expect much from the World Assembly in Helsinki which I support with all my strength, for it is the embodiment of the will of the peoples of the whole world to oppose atomic war and work for peace.

'When each individual's will for peace spreads throughout the world like a chain reaction, atomic weapons will be abolished and atomic energy and the will of the scientists concerned will for the first time become the real and faithful servants of mankind.'

The Reverend Armas Tolsa, Director of the Settlement Institute of Kalliola, Helsinki

'To avert the danger of atomic war, we must call on all men of good sense irrespective of race, nationality, social position and creed, for we are all threatened. The statesmen who decide war and peace have an enormous responsibility and we have to make them understand that they have no right to use their power for the destruction of life.

'Thus the World Assembly for Peace to be held in Helsinki in May has two important tasks. It must call upon and rally the peoples to the cause of peace, regardless of frontiers. There are still far too many sceptical and prejudiced people. We have to make people understand that work for peace is not party politics and that the demand for the banning of atomic weapons is not turned only in one direction: it concerns all peoples alike. The other task is to make the voice of millions of peace-loving people heard by the leading statesmen in such a way that they cannot neglect it.'

27-14-30

Professor Leon Wagner of the Sorbonne in Paris

'There is matter for rejoicing in the promise held out by the National Assembly for Peace (an initiative of the French Peace Movement Ed.) and the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki. What is the significance of this gathering at such a time?

'To understand it, we must remember that the forces for peace which exist in every country were neither represented nor defended. I say "were" because one of the major factor of our time is precisely that all these people willing the same end are today finding an opportunity to come together and make their demand prevail: a stable peace based on negotiation and confidence.

'This understanding of the situation would not have been as clear if our Movement had not stimulated it in the way that we know. Of course, the Peace Movement has not ceased its action for this reason but we must hope that the Assembly will be attended by all those who are honestly and unanimously seeking ways of uniting the peoples of the world in peace.'

Lieutenant-Colonel Lorenzo Arrua (Paraguay)

'No human being can remain neutral between life and death, between war and peace. Peace is inseparable from any kind of human activity as well as from political,philosophical or religious ideas.

'Peace will be victorious in this struggle and once again its enemies will be defeated. The World Assembly for Peace to be held in Helsinki will make its decisions prevail and put an end to the manoeuvres of the aggressors.'

Round The World

SWEDEN

Half of Sweden's delegation of 100 will be members of a wide range of trade unions representing Swedish industry as a whole. A number of these trade union representatives are members of the Swedish Social Democratic Party. The delegation will include members of pacifist organisations in an individual capacity.

A leaflet on the preparations for the Assembly will be put out on May 1st and 500,000 copies of it will be distributed. Nearly 50 meetings have been held or are in preparation throughout the country.

27-14-31

JAPAN

The miners' union (membership 280,000) is at present conducting a campaign of support for the World Assembly to which it has decided to send representatives.

GERMANY

The German Congress for Security and Peace will be held in Dresden on April 24 in preparation for the World Assembly in Helsinki. A number of public figures have announced their participation, including the following: Mr. Otto Nuschke, Deputy Prime Minister; Mr. Johannes Becher, Minister of Culture; the writers Anna Seghers and Arnold Zweig; Professor Hans Schwarz, doctor and President of the Association for the Protection of Children, from Greifswald; Professor Steiniger, President of the German United Nations Association.

In all, there will be 1,300 delegates from the German Democratic Republic taking part in the Congress for Security and Peace, together with a strong delegation from the Federal Republic and foreign visitors. The Congress will elect the delegation to the World Assembly in Helsinki.

SAAR

The Saar delegation to the World Assembly for Peace will be elected at the Saar Peace Conference. Ten thousand postcards are at present on sale to help cover the expenses of the Saar delegation.

27-14-32

BRAZIL

The Brazilian National Assembly for Peace will be held in May and will prepare Brazil's contribution to the World Assembly. It is being preceded by local and regional conferences like that held in Sao Paulo which was attended by representatives from the towns and villages, the trade unions and women's and youth organisations, and by intellectuals and political figures.

TUNISIA

The Tunisian Assembly for Peace will be held on April 28. It agenda includes the launching of the signature campaign and participation in the World Assembly.

---oOo---

Eigentümer, Herausgeber und Vergleger:Roland Vuillaume, Redakteur des Informationsdienstes des Sekretariats des Weltfriedensrates, Wien IV, Tilgnerstrasse 4/6-Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Max Edgar, Wien XXII, Kraygasse 48.

[World Peace Council]

PRESS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICE
OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

Estate-Haus, Mollwaldplatz 5, Wien IV

No 72 April 21, 1955

J A P A N

M.P.s of various parties prepare Japan's participation in the World Assembly for Peace

A National Preparatory Committee of 120 personalities, on which 40 organisations are represented, has been set up in Japan. Its members include M.P.s of various political parties, such as Mr. Shichiro Matsumoto and Mrs. Natsu Kawasaki, members of the Right Wing Socialist Party; Mr. Gengo Kinoshita, Mr. Orinoshin Tanaka, Mr. Kanemitsu Hososako and Mr. Kozo Inomata, members of the Left Wing Socialist Party; Mr. Makoto Hori, of the Worker-Farmer Party; and Mr. Goro Hani, independent.

The Committee also includes scientists and university teachers such as Professor Hyoe Ouchi, member of the Academy of Sciences and President of the Hosei University; Professor Hiroshi Suekawa, member of the Academy of Sciences and President of Ritsumeikan University; and Professor Shigeto Tsuru of Hitotsubashi University.

The following organisations are represented on the Committee:

The National Union of Railwaymen (membership 400,000)
The Japanese Miners' Union (" 270,000)
The Japanese Peasants' Association
The National Council of Bank Employees" 157,000)
The National Council of Youth Associations
The All Japan Students' Union
The Japanese Congress of Intellectuals.

Mr. Atuyasu Fukuda M.P., deputy general secretary of the Liberal Party, and Mr. Yoshio Namiki M.P., of the Democratic Party, also support the movement to send a big Japanese delegation to the World Assembly.

The Committee has published posters, leaflets and information bulletins on the World Assembly and is organising meetings in every town and even in the villages.

Regional peace congresses are at present being held throughout Japan in preparation for the Japanese Assembly for

37-14-34

Peace which will be held from May 7-9. In these Congresses delegates to the World Assembly and to the National Assembly are elected.

Big national organisations will also be represented at the World Assembly: on March 29, the Congress of the Japanese Peasants' Association decided to send a delegate. Various youth organisations have also elected their representatives.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

'Peace Week' organised for the World Assembly for Peace

While delegates from all over the world are travelling to the Finnish capital, many people will be discussion the World Assembly on the other side of the world, in far-off South Africa. For the South African Peace Council has asked that the week May 16-22 be observed as 'Peace Week'. During this week the Peace Movement will do intensive work for the World Assembly and for the signature campaign against the preparations for atomic war.

27-14-25

Targets will be set in the collection of signatures and stalls will be put up in the streets. Ministers of religion have been asked to devote their sermons to peace that week and many meetings on the Assembly and the campaign will be held. For example, there will be a big meeting in the Transvaal with Professor Bleksley, Professor of Applied Mathematics at Witwatersrand University, as the main speaker.

The results obtained during the week will be cabled to the World Assembly.

MIDDLE CONGO

It is announced that there will be an important delegation from the Middle Congo at the Assembly.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland will send a ten-man delegation to the World Assembly. The Geneva sections of the Union of Post Office Workers, the Union of

Watchmakers and the Metalworkers' Federation will send one delegate each.

NORWAY

The Norwegion section of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation will send its President, the Rev. Ragnar Forbeck, First Chaplain of Oslo Cathedral, to Helsinki as an observer.

---oOo---

27-14-26

Eigentumer, Herausgeber und Verleger: Roland Vuillaume, Redakteur des Informationsdienstes des Sekretariats des Weltfriedensrates, Wien IV, Tilgnerstrasse 4/6 - Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Max Ungar, Wien XXII, Kraygasse 48.

[World Peace Council]

PRESS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICE
OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

Estate-Haus, Mollwaldplatz 5, Wien IV

No.74 April 25, 1955

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC WILL SEND DELEGATION OF ONE HUNDRED TO WORLD ASSEMBLY IN HELSINKI

The Assembly for Peace held in Duisburg in the German Federal Republic on April 17 was attended by 600 delegates and by representatives from the German Democratic Republic and the peace movement in Belgium, France, Great Britain and Japan.

The introductory report, entitled 'Our responsibility in the century of atomic war', was given by Mrs.Clara Fassbinder, professor at Bonn University, after which Mr.Wilhelm Elfes congratulated the Austrian people on the progress they have just made towards peace and independence. 'There is nothing we Germans want more than to find ourselves also on the eve of negotiations for the reunification and independence of our country,' said Mr.Elfes, who then proceeded to show the importance of the World Assembly. At the end of the meeting a preparatory committee for the World Assembly was elected. Its members include a professor, a minister of religion, a doctor, a housewife, a businessman, a chemist, a miner and a number of political figures.

One hundred delegates representing various organisations for peace, religious circles, workers', youth and women's organisations, were elected to represent the German Federal Republic at the World Assembly in Helsinki.

This Assembly for Peace also officially opened the signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal in West Germany.

Statement by Mrs.Thea Arnold, delegate to the World Assembly, former M.P. of the Centre Party in the Bundestag and member of the executive of the German Popular Party:

'The World Assembly for Peace is an important and useful undertaking. The greatest desire of the peoples of the whole world today is to obtain the abolition and absolute banning of atomic weapons. The peoples want peace at last; they want to be free of fear once and for all; they want to develop their economy and culture in security. They want to be free of foreign pressure and interference in their vital interests. I therefore think that this World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki will make a great contribution to the relaxation of international tension, to bringing the peoples closer to each other and to giving them a better understanding of each other.

27-14-27

'It is only on this basis and not on that of the arms race and the threats to use hydrogen and cobalt bombs that lasting world peace can be ensured.'

CZECHOSLOVAKIA ELECTS ITS DELEGATION

The third Czechoslovak Peace Congress, which was attended by 1500 delegates, opened in Prague on April 17.

The opening speech was delivered by Professor J.Hromadka, Dean of the Comenius Theological Faculty, who stressed the need for peaceful co-existence to prevent another war. The discussion that followed expressed the Czechoslovak people's firm determination to play an even more energetic part in the struggle for world peace.

A letter to the World Council of Peace explains why Czechoslovakia is taking part in the World Assembly for Peace. It says:

'The people of Czechoslovakia are doing their utmost to make an active contribution to attaining the aims of the Peace Movement in the common struggle of all peace-loving peoples.

'Side by side with the peace forces of other countries we are striving to foil the attempts to remilitarise West Germany and re-establish Hitler's Wehrmacht. Together with them, we are working to prevent the brilliant discovery of atomic energy from being used for war, but to see that it is used for peaceful purposes and for a fuller life. These efforts are reflected in the 9,495,226 signatures in Czechoslovakia to the Appeal against the preparations for atomic war.

'We are fully aware of the need for the people to conduct their struggle with even greater strength and energy in order to consolidate and carry forward the important successes so far won by the World Peace Movement. We therefore warmly welcome the decision to call the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki with a view to uniting even more closely the forces for peace throughout the world.'

The people of Czechoslovakia will be represented by 30 delegates at the Assembly. They include Professor Mukarovsky, Rector of the Charles University in Prague; Professor Hromadka, Dean of the Comenius Theological Faculty and member of the World Council of Churches; Mrs.Hodinova Spurna, vice-president of the National Assembly; Dr.Alexander Horak, regional director of communications for Slovakia; Mr.Vaclav Boucek, M.P., foundry worker; Mr.Jan Drda, president of the Czechoslovak Writers' Union; Emil Zatopek; Mrs.Gusta Fucikova, widow of the national hero Julius Fucik; and other public figures, writers and industrial and agricultural workers.

27-14-28

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS SUPPORTS HELSINKI ASSEMBLY

The first International Conference of Public Service Workers and others was held in Vienna from April 13-16. It was attended by 164 delegates from 61 organisations, representing 6,800,000 workers of all tendencies.

The conference called on all public service workers and trade unions to do their utmost 'to win signatures for the Vienna Appeal issued by the World Council of Peace and to take part in the preparations for the World Assembly for Peace by popularising it, collecting money and sending delegates.'

VIENNA APPEAL SIGNED BY MAJORITY OF SYRIA'S M.P.s

The Vienna Appeal has already been signed by 83 out of the 140 M.P.s in the Syrian Parliament. With the single exception of the parliamentary group of the National Socialist Party, which has two members, leaders or members of all the other parliamentary groups, together with a number of independent M.P.s, have gone on record against the preparations for atomic war and in favour of the signature campaign launched by the World Council of Peace. They include:

Mr.Akrami Morani, leader of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party; Mr.Mustafa Zarka and Mr.Mohamed Mubarek, leaders of the Moslem group; Mr.Rushdi Kikhia and Mr.Maruf Dawalibi, both former Government ministers, former Speakers of Parliament and at present members of the Executive Committee of the People's Party; Mr. Khaled Bakdash, general secretary of the Communist Party, and the other four Communist M.P.s; Mr.Rafik Bashur, vice-president of the House; Mr.Abdel Latif El Yunes, secretary of the House; and many M.P.s of the Democratic Front, the National Party and independents. Many M.P.s have yet to be contacted.

++

The directing body of the Moslem Brotherhood in Syria has also decided to support the Vienna Appeal. Mr.Mustapha Sibahi, leader of the Moslem Brotherhood in Syria, has himself signed and members of this organisation are at present collecting signatures to the Appeal.

++

On behalf of its President, Abu Elkheir Midani, the Syrian Association of Religious Scholars has published a statement demanding the banning of nuclear weapons and the relaxation of international tension, and opposing military pacts.

27-14-59

Eigentümer, Herausgeber und Verleger: Roland Vuillaume, Redakteur des Informationsdienstes des Sekretariats des Weltfriedensrates, Wien IV, Tilgnerstrasse 4/6 - Verantwortlicher Redakteur Max Ungar, Wier XXII, Graygasse 48.

Preparing the World Assembly for Peace

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BULLETIN OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

No. 3 April 27, 1955

32.26.27

Communique

Certain important organisations in a number of countries have asked the World Council of Peace to postpone the World Assembly which was to be held in Helsinki in May.

The same request has also been made by well-known public figures who wish to take part.

It has therefore been decided that the World Assembly for Peace shall take place from June 22-29 in Helsinki.

Frederic Joliot-Curie
President of the World Council of Peace
Paris, April 27, 1955

German Federal Republic Will Send More than 100 Delegates

The Assembly for Peace held in Duisburg in the German Federal Republic on April 17 was attended by 600 delegates. At the end of the meeting a preparatory committee for the World Assembly was elected. Its members include Mrs. Thea Arnold, former M.P. of the Centre Party in the Bundestag; Pastor Kurt Essen; Mr. Wilhelm Elfes, President of the Union of Germans for Peace and Freedom; Mr. Willi Niemand, businessman; and General Wolf Ewert (Retd.)

More than 100 delegates will go to the World Assembly from the German Federal Republic.

JAPAN — *M.P.s of Various Parties Take Part in a National Preparatory Committee*

A National Preparatory Committee of 120 personalities, on which 40 organisations are represented, has been set up in Japan. Its members include M.P.s of various political parties, such as Mr. Shichiro Matsumoto and Mrs. Natsu Kawasaki, members of the Right Wing Socialist Party; Mr. Gengo Kinoshita, Mr. Orinoshin Tanaka, Mr. Kanemitsu Hososako and Mr. Kozo Inomata, members of the Left Wing Socialist Party; Mr. Makoto Hori, of the Worker-Farmer Party; and Mr. Goro Hani, independent.

The Committee also includes scientists and university teachers such as Professor Hyoe Ouchi, member of the Academy of Sciences and President of the Hosei University; Professor Hiroshi Suekawa, member of the Academy of Sciences and President of Ritsumeikan University; Professor Shigeto Tsuru of Hitotsubashi University; Dr. Otsuka Kinnosuke, economist and member of the Academy of Sciences.

The following organisations are represented on the Committee:

The National Union of Railwaymen (membership 400,000).

The Japanese Miners' Union (membership 270,000).

The Japanese Peasants' Association.

The National Council of Bank Employees (membership 157,000).

The National Council of Youth Associations.

The All Japan Students' Union.

The Japanese Congress of Intellectuals.

(Contd. on Page 2)

An Important Step towards Understanding

by Professor Joliot-Curie

An important World Assembly for Peace will be held in Helsinki from June 22-29. It was in Stockholm last November that the World Council of Peace took the initiative of inviting representatives of all organisations and tendencies for peace throughout the world to meet in such an Assembly.

In the course of 1954 encouraging signs of a relaxation of tension appeared in international affairs. After the ending of hostilities in Korea, the Geneva negotiations put an end to the war in Indo-China and the rejection of E.D.C. left the way open for a negotiated solution of the German problem. World public opinion noted the promising results of the work being done in the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

But new dangers appeared on the horizon at the end of the year and these were soon confirmed by the adoption of the agreements on German rearmament and the N.A.T.O. Council decisions to base its strategy and tactics on the use of nuclear weapons.

So the threat of a war of extermination has become sharper today and dangerous war centres are being maintained in different parts of the world.

However, a new and very important factor has appeared in international relations. Until these last years, public opinion was most often considered as a factor which, while, of course, not without its importance in this field, was nevertheless, a passive factor; public opinion was not consulted when great

(Contd. on Page 4)

(1) This article is reprinted here as it originally appeared in the Paris newspaper COMBAT on April 22, 1955, except that the new dates have been inserted for the World Assembly.

✶

Edouard Herriot

Honorary President of the French National Assembly, Agrees to Preside Sponsoring Committee

On April 26, the National Council of the French Peace Movement issued the following statement:

'In the Department of the Rhone, a sponsoring committee has been set up to call on the people to prepare for the World Assembly in Helsinki and to sign the Vienna Appeal against atomic war.

'Asked by the Departmental Peace Council to preside this committee, Mr. Herriot sent the following reply:

' "I hasten to inform you that I willingly agree to be President of this committee, as you desire."

'Among the first to give their agreement to sit on this sponsoring committee are: Mr. Bourricand, former mayor of Villefranche; Mr. Broues, Socialist deputy mayor of Givors; Mr. Jean Cagne, Communist M.P.; Mr. Pierre Cot, progressive M.P. and former Government minister; Mr. Georges Faillet, Christian trade unionist; Mr. Jean Gay, vice-president of the Union of Ex-Servicemen's Associations; Mr. Justin Godart, former Government minister; Mr. Lacroix, member of the "New Left"; Mr. Leong, engineer, member of the Force Ouvriere trade unions; Mr. Camille Vallin, mayor of Givors and county councillor; Mr. Simon Sylvestre, Socialist town councillor of Venissieux; Mr. Louis Vienney, radical deputy mayor of Lyons; and Professor Wertheimer.'

The French Writers Jean-Paul Sartre and Vercors will be there . . .

In France, hundreds of thousands of cards reproducing Hans Erni's poster are being issued to cover the travelling expenses of the delegates. Through the mass distribution of this card the people of every locality and village are being informed of the holding of the Assembly and its aims. The price is very low — it takes more than 7,000 cards to pay the fare of one delegate — and so each delegate will have the backing of thousands of his fellow citizens.

Individuals who have already let it be known that they will be at the Assembly include the writers Jean-Paul Sartre and Vercors; Professor Gurvitch of the Sorbonne; Professor Bernard Lavergne of the Paris Law Faculty; Pastor Botinelli; Mr. Gilbert de Chambrun M.P., Mr. Emmanuel d'Astier M.P., Mr. Laurent Casanova M.P. and Mrs. Yves Farge. Many organisations, too, have announced that they will be taking part, including the Republican Ex-Servicemen's Association, the Workers' Sports and Gymnastics Federation, the Union of French Women, the National Committee of Writers, the National Peasant Committee for the Preservation of Peace and Agriculture and the Engineers' and Technical Staffs' Liaison Centre.

. . . and so will Emil Zatopek

The people of Czechoslovakia will be represented by 30 delegates at the Assembly. They include Professor Mukarovsky, Rector of the Charles University in Prague; Professor Hromadka, member of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches; Mrs. Hodinova Spurna, vice-president of the National Assembly; Mr. Vaclav Boucek, M.P., foundry worker; Mr. Jan Drda, president of the Czechoslovak Writers' Union; Emil Zatopek; Dr. Frantisek Kubka, writer, former ambassador; Dr. Karel Josef Benes, the well-known writer and translator; Mrs. Gusta Fucikova, widow of the national hero Julius Fucik.

Canada Gets Ready

A yellow folder is being distributed in Canada at the present time. On the front page is a drawing of a little girl and the statement of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace: 'For a World Assembly for Peace'. Inside is a letter from Dr. James Endicott 'to every Canadian, to every Canadian organisation', which says:

'I remember that it was at the Congress of the Peoples for Peace in Vienna (December 1952) that the compromise was first discussed which unlocked the door to a cease-fire in Korea. I hope that at Helsinki a way may be found . . . to rid the world of atomic weapons and to ensure the security of every country through controlled disarmament.'

The folder also contains practical information for individuals and organisations wishing to take part in the World Assembly and is being widely distributed by all peace committees to make the aims of the Assembly known.

Individuals who have already announced that they will take part in the Assembly include:

The Rev. D. C. Candy, rector of the Anglican Church of St. Cyprian in Toronto, who will be present as an observer for the Church Peace Mission. Mr. Candy is at present drawing up a statement to be used for collecting money to send other ministers as observers to the Assembly.

Mr. John Andreschuk of Calgary, representing the Fellowship of Reconciliation; Mrs. Lena Kolchin, one of the founders of the Peace Movement in Toronto; Mr. Gus Sundquist, national secretary of the Association of Canadian-Finns.

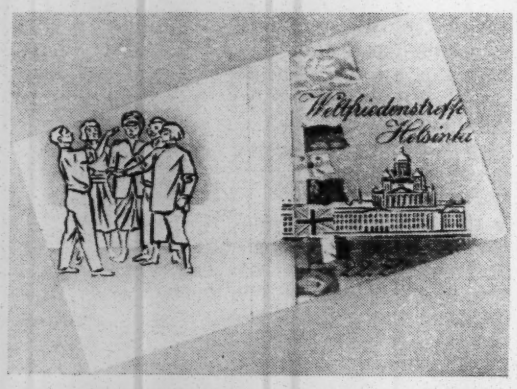
More than 100 Delegates from the German Federal Republic

Impressions of a Japanese delegate at the Duisburg Conference

I saw the West German peoples' determination to fight for peace at the National Conference for Peace, in Duisburg, on April 17. On arriving at the meeting hall in Duisburg, I found the place to be literally full.

Speakers from all sections of society appeared on the platform one after another: scientists, politicians, workers, women, students, members of the religious world, etc. They spoke unanimously of the danger of atomic war and of the urgent necessity to prevent its preparation.

There were also present delegates from the German Democratic Republic, Great Britain, France, Holland and Japan. This gave the meeting a character of international friendship and solidarity.



This card, printed in colours, has been produced by the Peace Committee in Düsseldorf (German Federal Republic). It is sold for 10 marks as a means of raising money for the World Assembly.

Among the Japanese delegates there was Mrs. Shinobu Hizume, who was a victim of the tragedy of Hiroshima. She made a profound impression on all those taking part in the conference. One minute's silence was observed in memory of the victims of the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so that they may never be repeated.

I admire the determination of the people of Germany to continue, and even intensify their struggle for peace, now that the London-Paris Agreements have been thrust upon them. This determination was shown in the Conference resolution to begin the signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal and to organise a national preparatory committee for the World Assembly in Helsinki. Several German friends told me, after the Conference, they they were going to send more than one hundred delegates to Helsinki: they all said it with pride and confidence.

They are quite right to be proud and confident. Although their circumstances are far from being easy, I am sure that their determination will win in the end. I remember too well that, when the Japanese Government signed the San Francisco Treaty and the Mutual Security Treaty, many of us thought it was the end of all. But it wasn't. We have not been defeated. The Peace Movement in Japan has grown in spite of the presence of the U.S. army and its bases.

Why? The reason is quite simple, when one comes to think of it. It is because peace is intrinsically and essentially for everyone, for every people in the world. Only, we must always strive to find better and quicker ways to realise it. And, for this purpose, the German people are right in their determination to send so many delegates to the World Assembly. All the peoples of the world are right in their enthusiasm to send delegates to Helsinki.

Kinkazu Saionji (Japan)
Former Senator, Director of the newspaper *Nichiyo Shinbun*

✶

Japan: Personalities of Various Political Parties . . .

(Contd. from p. 1)

Mr Atuyasu Fukuda M.P., deputy general secretary of the Liberal Party, and Mr. Yoshio Namiki M.P., of the Democratic Party, also support the movement to send a big Japanese delegation to the World Assembly.

The Committee has published posters, leaflets and information bulletins on the World Assembly and is organising meetings in every town and even in the villages.

Regional peace congresses are at present being held throughout Japan in preparation for the Japanese Assembly for Peace which will be held from May 7-9. In these Congresses delegates to the World Assembly and to the National Assembly are elected.

Big national organisations will also be represented at the World Assembly: on March 29, the Congress of the Japanese Peasants' Association decided to send a delegate. Various youth organisations have also elected their representatives.

Statements by Well-Known Individuals

In all parts of the world well-known individuals of every political standpoint are taking the opportunity to express their support for the World Assembly for Peace and are wishing it success.

Here are extracts from a few such statements.

'It is undoubtedly vitally important and urgent that all peoples should put up a vigorous resistance to the preparations for atomic war. It should be stated now that those responsible for such a war would be war criminals and guilty of a crime against humanity.

'Let all sincere friends of peace unite so as to meet this extraordinary situation and avert the danger.'

Mr. George Branting,
Swedish Social-Democratic Senator

*

'The World Assembly for Peace is an important and useful undertaking. The greatest desire of the peoples of the whole world today is to obtain the abolition and absolute banning of atomic weapons. The peoples want peace at last; they want to be free of fear once and for all; they want to develop their economy and culture in security. They want to be free of foreign pressure and interference in their vital interests. I therefore think that this World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki will make a great contribution to the relaxation of international tension, to bringing the peoples closer to each other and to giving them a better understanding of each other.

'It is only on this basis and not on that of the arms race and the threats to use hydrogen and cobalt bombs that lasting world peace can be ensured.'

Mrs. Thea Arnold,
Former M.P. of the Centre Party in the Bundestag (German Federal Republic) and member of the executive of the German Popular Party.

*

'As a Japanese scientist and particularly as a member of the medical research team which conducted an inquiry into the damage wreaked by atomic weapons, I know the destructive power of these weapons; nor do I forget the soundless call of the victims of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

'I therefore expect much from the World Assembly in Helsinki which I support with all my strength, for it is the embodiment of the will of the peoples of the whole world to oppose atomic war and work for peace.

'When each individual's will for peace spreads throughout the world like a chain reaction, atomic weapons will be abolished and atomic energy and the will of the scientists concerned will for the first time become the real and faithful servants of mankind.'

Doctor Nobuo Kusano,
Member of the Japanese Institute for the Study of Infectious Diseases

*

'In the face of the fear of war which reigns in the world, it is the duty of every citizen, whatever views he may have, to see to it that the countries on the opposing sides find the means for that peaceful understanding which will ensure peace.

'I want to see the Mexican National Peace Council getting the necessary encouragement in its work for the noble cause which it pursues: peace as the means to the well-being, the freedom, the liberty and the social progress of all the peoples.'

General Lazaro Cardenas,
Former President of the Republic of Mexico, sent this message to the Mexican Assembly for Peace and Security (Mexico City, March 29-31).

'The international gatherings of the peace forces are one of the most powerful means for strengthening peace.

Can Christians hold aloof from this friendly gathering? There can only be one answer to this question — NO! — not if they wish to be faithful to the Testament of their Master Jesus Christ! That is why Baptists in particular must not decline to take part in the great meeting between East and West at Helsinki, since the Baptist ideal has always been and remains the love of man, of each and every one. There are 21 million Baptists in the world and for all of them peace must be their sacred aim. But peace does not come of its own accord — it has to be built and created! It is not enough to talk about peace, it is not enough to pray for peace — it is necessary to work for peace.

'The World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki is a further opportunity to carry on this holy activity for peace. Let as many Christians as possible take advantage of this opportunity and participate in the friendly gathering at Helsinki.'

Mr. Alexander Karev,
General Secretary of the Union of Soviet Baptists

*

'You don't suspect your postman or milkman of harbouring murderous designs against you, nor the office-worker or intellectual you meet in the café. If you have a discussion on peace with them, you try to reach a common ground with them: their children, their attachment to life, what makes them want to live and therefore able to be won for the defence of peace.

'Everywhere in the world there are postmen, employees, civil servants and intellectuals whose one desire is to work in peace and improved conditions. Thousands, millions of ordinary people as well as the greatest scientists of our time give their support to the World Assembly in Helsinki.

'What for? To make peace with a handful of people who want war. How? By finding the common ground of political interest which will lead all governments to prefer peace to war.'

Professor Andre Bonnard
(Switzerland)
Hellenist

*

'The Austrian Government delegation's trip to Moscow has shown once again that personal contacts between people of different opinions can dissipate mistrust and tension and that negotiations can be conducted in a spirit of friendship and peace.

'I therefore welcome with joy the forthcoming World Assembly in Helsinki of representatives of all organisations and tendencies that make for peace, whatever their party or religion. To bring universal peace, it is absolutely necessary that all barriers be knocked down and that people of all nations and races hold out a friendly hand to each other. The World Assembly is an excellent way to prepare for such harmonious and peaceful world unity. No organisation invited to take part should fail to do so; it should send its representatives as proof of its desire to promote peace and understanding between the peoples.

'Against the armed military forces we must set a great army of peace that is unarmed and which, through united peaceful measures, can counter the war preparations.

'It is in this spirit that I greet all the participants in the Assembly.'

Luise Eisenmenger-Miko
President of the Austrian Pacifist Union

*

'In the present world situation there is an urgent need for moves that can lead to East-West understanding. I therefore approve of the Helsinki meeting and the efforts made by the World Council of Peace to ensure the peaceful co-existence of all peoples.'

Professor C. H. Lassen
of Copenhagen University (Denmark), President of the Doctors against War organisation

*

'The Helsinki Assembly will be a great rally of representatives of those millions of men and women who are speaking out in every country, demanding the abolition of atomic weapons that they may look on the future with confidence. Those who come to Helsinki will examine together ways of co-operating more closely and making their action stronger and more effective.

'The Assembly will open in this Summer of 1955 when the dangers and threats have been aggravated. It is being held, too, at a time of the development of the immense popular and universal movement of people who can no longer conceal their horror of war and their determination to see peace established.

'The Assembly can be a great event with far-reaching consequences.'

Pastor Francis Bosc
(France)

A symphony in white stone, interspersed here and there with broad avenues and picturesque parks with murmuring fountains, with the sea on all sides. This is the visitor's first impression of the Finnish capital as he disembarks in the very heart of Helsinki.

*

Eminent Finns
Greet the World Assembly

The following statement, signed by eighteen well-known Finns, has just been published:

'In Finland we are trying to develop friendly relations with all countries. That is why we hope that representatives of different political, social and religious views in all parts of the world will take part in the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki. We believe that by exchanging views freely and getting to know each other people can come to an understanding and get rid of the prejudices which create a war psychology. We are happy that in a world divided by conflicts our country can be the place for such a peaceful gathering. We wish the World Assembly every success in its work for mankind, for culture and for peace.'

The statement is signed by: Mr. Wälnö Aaltonen, sculptor, member of the Academy; Professor Göran von Bonsdorff, Professor of Political Science at Helsinki University; Mr. Karl Bruhn, Professor of Pedagogy at Helsinki University; Mrs. Eva Cederström, painter; Mr. Einar Englund, composer; Professor Felix Iversen, Professor of Mathematics, vice-president of the World Federation of United Nations Associations; Mr. Väino Kaukonen, D. Litt.; Mrs. Sylvi Kyllikki Kilpi, M.P.; Laura Latvala, poet; Mr. Tarmo Manni, actor at the Finnish National Theatre; Mr. Väino Meltti, Governor of the province of Uusimaa; Mrs. Hagar Olsson, writer; Mr. Olavi Paavolainen, writer, Director of Drama for the Finnish Broadcasting Company; Professor J. E. Salomaa, Professor of Philosophy at Turku University; Sirkkz Selja, poet; Mr. Olavi Siippainen, writer; Elvi Sinervo, writer; Elsa Sylverstersson, ballerina.

Address of the Finnish Peace Committee:

Suomen Rauhanpuolustajat, Bulevardi 13 a 9, Helsinki

('Phone Helsinki 53052)

When Spring comes at last after a long and hard winter the rivers are once again to be seen bearing thousands of logs down to the ports and the Finnish countryside takes on a new appearance, a peaceful grandeur.

An article by Professor JOLIOT-CURIE

(Continued from Page 1)

international decisions were taken but was 'softened up' to accept them.

But the fact that hundreds of millions of men and women have personally suffered from war, the knowledge of the new dangers brought home by the 200,000 victims of Hiroshima, the results of the latest hydrogen bomb tests and finally the development of organised action for peace on a world scale have already changed this situation.

World public opinion has now become an active force which makes itself felt even while these international decisions are being arrived at.

So the peoples, with the experience of several years of struggle for peace behind them, feel clearly that they can change the situation and prevent the outbreak of a new and terrible conflict. They consider very positive the possibilities of negotiation that are appearing for the final settlement of the Austrian question and the Asian problems.

Peace can be saved if all work together. That is why it is necessary that all those who are working for peace, in whatever field, should, while preserving their own character, strive to attain common objectives which can more effectively contribute to the lessening of international tension. The World Assembly for Peace fulfils this need which the gravity of the situation makes more urgent than ever.

*

It is open to all movements, all organisations and all individuals who wish to avert the horrors of an atomic war from mankind and are sincerely seeking the way to disarmament and peace. In many countries, representatives of organisations and individuals who do not take part in the Peace Movement or do not wish to do so as yet, are co-operating with it in preparing for the World Assembly. Great national assemblies of organisations and tendencies for peace will send delegates to Helsinki.

At the Assembly there will be full freedom of expression for all those who, while they differ in their views and ideas, think that it is possible to have a frank discussion and to reach agreement on common objectives.

There is no question of discussing the merits of any particular regime or of condemning any particular government. Nor is there any question of imposing the position of any particular organisation. We must, honestly and in an atmosphere of mutual respect, consult each other's point of view and seek agreement on certain vital questions on which world peace depends.

*

What are these vital questions? The Assembly will itself settle the agenda for its work, decide which questions should be put forward for the discussions and how the latter will proceed.

On March 13, 1955, the Bureau of the World Council of Peace detailed, in the text it adopted relative to the Assembly, the dangers to peace and the objective to be attained: 'The abolition of nuclear weapons, general disarmament, the security of all, respect for the sovereignty and rights of every nation, these must be pursued by the peoples with the energy needed where life itself is at stake.'

On the basis of the views and proposals expressed up till now in various exchanges of views, the Bureau of the World Council has made provisional suggestions for the agenda of the Assembly. The following questions could, in our opinion, be the basis for an extensive and fruitful discussion:

1) Atomic weapons and disarmament.

2) Military blocs. General security. Co-operation between the nations.

3) The independence of nations and the maintenance of peace.

*

We appeal to all organisations and individuals who devote part of their efforts to the easing of international tension and the defence of peace to take part in the World Assembly and in the preparations for it.

More than 60 countries have already announced that they are sending delegations, which, together with the representatives of organisations and the individuals who will take part or attend as observers, means that we can expect a total of more than 2,000 participants.

The World Assembly for Peace will be a striking demonstration of the peoples' will to peace. Its results can and must mark an important stage along the road to agreement among all those who want to ensure for mankind a future without fear, mistrust or hatred.

Reproduction authorised. Please acknowledge source.

Eigentümer, Herausgeber und Verleger: Roland Vuillaume, Redakteur des Informationsdienstes des Sekretariats des Weltfriedensrates, Wien IV, Tilgnerstraße 4/6. — Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Max Ungar, Wien XXII, Kraygasse 48. — Druck: Globus II, Wien VI, Gumpendorferstraße 40—44.